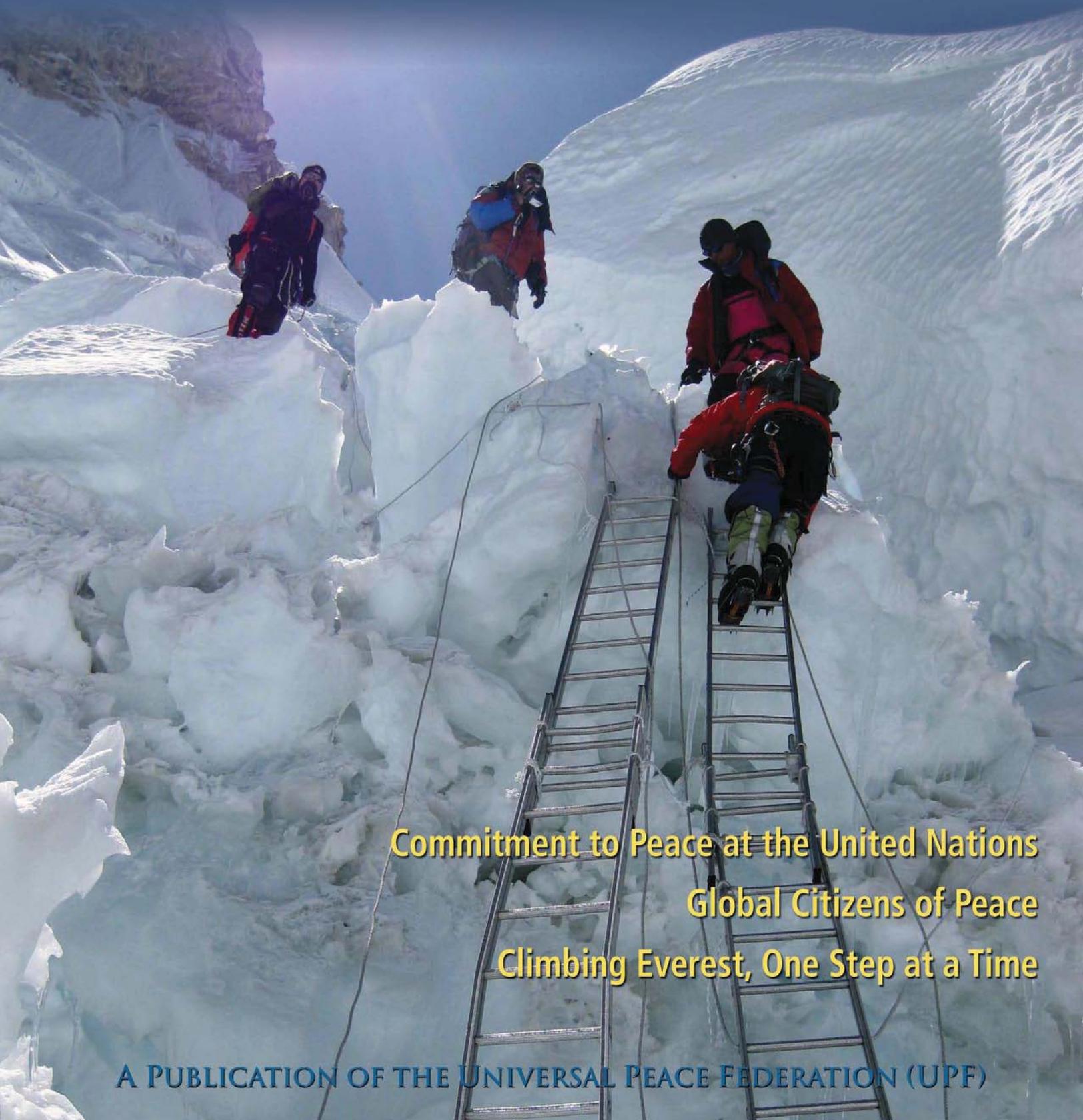


JULY 2009

UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE



Commitment to Peace at the United Nations
Global Citizens of Peace
Climbing Everest, One Step at a Time

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION (UPF)

2009 has already been a very busy and successful year for UPF, and we are only half way through! The Global Peace Tour, which started back in February in Japan, finished up three months later at the United Nations in New York, having visited more than 70 countries as part of the International Year of Reconciliation. Reports of the tour, which crossed all boundaries of race, religion, and nationality, were widely circulated in all six UN languages, including Arabic, our latest addition.

In May, we celebrated the UN International Day of Families in fine style. More than 400 people crammed into the United Nations Committee Room 2 in New York for a stimulating program featuring UN Ambassadors, representatives of the Secretariat, and a variety of faith leaders and experts on the family.

In June, we had the opportunity to take a moment to congratulate our Founder, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, on the publication of his new autobiographical memoir, "Becoming a Global Citizen of Peace." We held an international leadership conference in Seoul and were invited to a stellar publisher's party at the COEX exhibition center, together with 3,000 of Korea's leading citizens.

At the beginning of July we find ourselves back in Seoul to take another creative step in renewing the vision of the United Nations, a world free from the scourge of war.

Meanwhile, our chapters have been very busy. UPF Nepal undertook a "peace climb" on Mt. Everest; UPF Peru tackled the issue of conflict between multinational logging corporations and indigenous peoples. Thanks to our communications team, every chapter now has its own dedicated page on our website, <http://www.upf.org>.

Preparations are continuing all around the world for the Global Peace Convention that will be held in Manila this December. The Convention will also feature a fact-finding tour to Mindanao, offering delegates an opportunity to check up on the progress of one of our newest peace initiatives.

To all our readers, and all who are helping UPF to move onward and upward, we once again thank you very much for your continued and valued support!



Dr. Thomas G. Walsh,
Secretary General,
Universal Peace
Federation

UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

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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-Nepal nears the
summit of Mt. Everest

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SYMPOSIUM CALLS FAMILIES TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO PEACE

By Michael Balcomb, Communications Director, UPF

More than 400 UN diplomats, Ambassadors, NGO representatives, and faith leaders gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York May 18 to celebrate the UN International Day of Families sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Guinea, with additional co-sponsorship from the Permanent Missions of Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, Qatar, Sudan, and the Permanent Observer of the African Union, in collaboration with the Universal Peace Federation.

The keynote guest address was given by Dr. Deepak Chopra. “We are literally members not only of the same breath, but of the same body,” he said. “Every single one of us recycles our whole body with the rest of the universe every year. We are one with the world and with each other. There is no separation, only differentiation. We have confused the two.”

The audience was welcomed by H.E. U. Joy Ogwu, the Permanent Representative of Nigeria and the Chairperson of the event. “We are glad to welcome you to the United Nations as global citizens,” she said. “The family is the fulcrum and the central point of society, and the UN tries to promote the incorporation of the family viewpoint into all sectors of society.”

H.E. Nassir A. Al-Nasser from the Permanent Mission of Qatar emphasized the support that Qatar has given to the family, including hosting an international conference on the family in 2004 which resulted in the adoption of the Doha Declaration on the Family.

H.E. Dr. Abdelaziz Hegazy, the Former Prime Minister of Egypt and Chairman of the General Federation of NGOs and Foundations, submitted a

prepared message calling for the establishment of a “code of conduct” for families that would emphasize the importance of families in creating peace.

Mr. Eric Olson of Focal Point, UN Programme on the Family Division for Social Policy and Development, Division for Social Policy and Development, highlighted the UN work in this vital area of the family, and endorsed the event as a positive contribution to the 20th celebration of the UN International Day of Families.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, Secretary General of the UPF, closed the session with a reminder that the family is the place where we should learn the ways of peace. “Before

any one of us enters a school, university, or seminary,” he said, “we all learn our first lessons of love and peace from our mothers and fathers. And despite our differences, every family and every faith wants the same thing.”

Quoting the UPF Co-Chair, Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, Dr. Walsh said: “The family is universal. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, and religion, we are all members of families. However, although all religions agree that marriage and family are the fundamental building blocks of any society, the reality is that all nations are in danger of losing these most valuable traditions and institutions. Divorce and family breakdown are at an all-time high. Sexually transmitted

*The family is the fulcrum
and the central point of
society.*

H.E. U. JOY OGWU



The UN Conference room packed with over 400 people

UN: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES

diseases are on the rise, even among the youngest teenagers. Violence and crime among young people are on the rise, and many say they have little hope of securing dignified, meaningful jobs to support their future families.”

The second session focused on “Women and the Family” and was chaired by H.E. Mrs. Lila Hanitra Ratsifandrihamanana, the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the UN. Moving beyond a sense of general celebration, she reminded the audience that women and children around the world continue to bear the brunt of the burden of the breakdown of the family.

“This beautiful meeting chamber is a far cry from the daily reality faced by almost a half of the world’s mothers and children,” she said. “If this day is to be a real celebration, we had better use our time here to consider what can be done to bring permanent change.”

“Even though Africa has more than its fair share of these problems, I believe that Africa also carries the seeds for a solution within its rich family traditions,” she said. “Our model of the extended family of relations helping and supporting each other is among the strongest in the world. As the old African proverb says, ‘It takes a village to raise a child.’”

All religions and traditions share the same core values, especially about the family.

We need to learn from all of them if we are to establish a world of peace.

The Family Panel was also addressed by H.E. Mr. Hamid Al Bayati, the Permanent Representative of the Mission of Iraq. Ambassador Al Bayati also serves as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women. Mrs. Lynn Walsh of the UPF’s Women’s

Initiative and Mrs. Genie Kagawa, Deputy Director of the UPF’s office of UN and International Affairs, also spoke.

The third session focused on the interaction of family and faith and was chaired by H.E. Dr. Abdalmahmood A. Mohamad, Permanent Representative of the Mission of the Republic of the Sudan. Sudan is the current chair of the “Group of 77” at the United Nations, and Ambassador Mohamad spoke compellingly of the ongoing importance of religions and religious leaders working together to extend equal protection to families of all religious backgrounds.

Another speaker on the faith panel, Steven Cayre, the founder of the Steven J. Cayre Foundation, gave a moving account of his family’s efforts to choose peace instead of resentment. Cayre’s father, who is Jewish, had purchased the World Trade Center not long before the September 11, 2001 attacks. Afterwards, Cayre brought Arab and Muslim visitors to the Ground Zero site to begin the process of healing.

Closing remarks were given by Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Co-Chair of UPF. “It is important to note that for years, the UPF Founder, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, has stressed that we are in an age where the leadership of women is of paramount importance,” he said. “Moreover, all religions and traditions share the same core values, especially about the family. We need to learn from all of them if we are to establish a world of peace. This is why the UPF has summarized its message as one simple phrase, ‘One Family Under God.’”

This session reported on celebrations organized by UPF of the International Day of Families in 60 cities in 34 nations. Programs included service projects, visitations to orphanages and senior citizens’ homes, art and music contests, and symposia and conferences on strengthening the family.



Speakers at the opening session of the May 18 celebration of the International Day of Families

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE OF FAITH

By Steven Cayre, Founder, Steven J. Cayre Foundation

I was brought up in the sort of family that most people would regard as ideal. My grandparents came to this country as emigrants from Syria. They learned to adapt to life in a totally different world. Yet they managed to preserve and pass on the values that were part of their lives in Aleppo. I was born in Brooklyn, New York, the third generation of a family overflowing with love and devotion.

Sadly, families are not always as wonderful, supportive a structure as they were for me. Families can be fortresses – protecting, nurturing, and loving. But at the same time they can be closed-in on themselves and exclusive. Sometimes, they suppress individuality or force a new generation into the straight jacket of a previous one.

The same may be said of religion. We all agree that religion is a wonderful thing in principle – spreading spirituality, love of one’s neighbor, and of mankind. Yet, regrettably, the way people put religion into practice can sometimes be divisive and the cause of conflict and pain rather than peace and healing.

From an early age, I observed how my family, despite loyalty to its own traditions, was able to relate, help, and work with others, no matter what background they came from. In other words, a family does not need to be exclusive if the values and the example of its members are humane and universal.

In mid-2001, my father achieved a high point in his career when he completed the acquisition of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan. We all know what happened. But my father’s reaction was everything I had come to expect of him. He did not allow this catastrophe to turn into a game of blame in which religions, nations, and peoples were vilified. He was always able to realize the difference between people and fanatics.

My father set out immediately to build bridges. He invited Arab visitors to tour Ground Zero, to show that good relations between different peoples mattered much more than the destruction caused by a handful of individuals.

This desire to reach out to other people illustrates precisely how individuals can go beyond their own families to the wider world. This example of my

father breaking down barriers and healing conflicts is something that I try as hard as I can to follow.

One of my life’s highlights, so far, was visiting the leader of an Islamic country. At the end of our visit, my business partner and I asked the leader if he would join us in offering a prayer for peace. It was a remarkable moment: two Jewish businessmen from New York praising God – Allah – with the Muslim ruler of an Arab nation. It was a testament to what is possible in a world where we are all connected and part of the same human family.

People like you who stand for universalism without sacrificing individual heritage can make a difference. And the difference you can make is precisely by reaching out beyond your families to others – by using the good things you have learned from your own families to enrich others.

This is something that anybody can do. It just requires people being prepared to make contact with someone from another family, religion, or culture. This in itself can make all the difference to the world. The English poet John Donne once said “No man is an island.” The truth is we are all little islands. Our real task is to go and visit others, and to get others to visit us.



Steven Cayre



Presenters on Women and the Family (left to right):
Mrs. Lynn Walsh, H.E. Mrs. Lila Hanitra Ratsifandrihamanana,
and Mrs. Genie Kagawa

LET THE WORLD BE OUR FAMILY

By Deepak Chopra

President, Alliance for a New Humanity

Take a really deep breath, and breathe it out. Do you see that we are sharing the same breath? Are we sharing the same breath? With each breath that you breathe in you breathe in 10 to the power of 22 atoms. This means 10 followed by 22 zeros. With every breath that you breathe out you breathe out 10 to the power of 22 atoms. This is the same amount as you breathe in: 10 followed by 22 zeros. And these atoms are coming from every single cell of your body.

We are members of one breath. Right this moment you have in your body at least a million atoms that were once in the body of Christ. You have in your body at least a million atoms right now that were once in the body of Buddha or Mohammad. And yet we are fighting in the name of these great prophets.

In just the last three weeks a quadrillion atoms, 10 followed by 15 zeros, have gone through your body that have gone through the body of every other living species on this planet. So think of a tree in Africa, a camel in Saudi Arabia, taxi driver in Dhaka, Bangladesh, a peasant in China, and you have in your physical bodies stuff that was floating there only three weeks ago.

The trees are our lungs. Those rivers are our circulation. We have mistaken differentiation for separation. Differentiation means how the one becomes the many. When you started your life this time around, you were one cell. That cell became two, that cell became four, that cell became eight. Within 50 replications, only 50, you were one hundred trillion cells, which is more than all the stars in the Milky Way galaxy.

Now these stomach cells don't say, "why should I digest food for the heart, what does it do for me?" The heart doesn't say, "Why pump blood because all these neurons do is worry?" Stomach cells, heart cells, brain cells look different, but they came from that one cell. Similarly, we are not only members of one body, one ecosystem, or one energy field. We

are one consciousness that has differentiated into all these consciousnesses.

If we really get that, we can solve all the problems in the world right now, because all the social injustice, radical poverty, tribalism, warfare and eco-destruction come from a mistake we have made in the intellect that we are separate.

I have been writing about Buddha, I have been writing about Jesus Christ. I am now writing about Mohammed. As you go deeper into the teachings you realize these were universal beings. These were universal beings because they have had an experience of what is called unity consciousness. This is the non-difference between me and the other. If you are emotionally upset it will cause me to be emotionally upset. If you are unhealthy I will be unhealthy physically. If the eco-system is damaged my body will also be damaged. You cannot separate yourself from the other. Your well-being is so important to my well-being that I am totally dependent on your emotional, physical and spiritual well-being. So you'd better be healthy.

There is a passage in the gospel of John where Jesus is talking about being a child of God. The crowd was so upset they picked up stones and they wanted to kill Jesus. So he said, "Many good works have I shown you, for which of these do you stone me?" And the crowd said, "We stone you not for the good works that you do, we stone you for blasphemy, because you being a man, call yourself a Son of God." And Jesus, being a good rabbi, referred to the Old Testament and said, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, that you are gods'? And if it can be said of those to whom the word of God [the logos, the knowledge, the consciousness of God] came, then why do you say I blaspheme because I call myself a Son of God?"

So Jesus was talking about what the Jews call the *ruah*. It is that breath that we share, the spirit in the book of Genesis where God made man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils



Deepak Chopra, President,
Alliance for a New Humanity

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the breath of life and man became a living soul. The Muslims call it *ruh*.

I think we need a shift in our consciousness right now more than anything else, because, as Einstein said, “No problem will ever be solved at the level of consciousness in which it was created.” So we created wars in a certain level of consciousness. We created terrorism in a certain level of consciousness. And we are trying to solve that problem from that same level of consciousness when we say a War on Terrorism!

Today we no longer want to speak about the survival of the fittest because it is dangerous. The future belongs to the survival of the wisest. Wisdom is the knowledge that understands our inseparability.

Recent studies also show that when there is inflammation in the body the normal cells of the body get recruited by the cancer cells to help them. Let’s say that a person has cancer and the doctor in his enthusiasm over-treats the cancer by giving lots of chemotherapy or lots of radiation, which causes what the doctors call collateral damage. Once that

collateral damage has occurred, then the normal cells will join the cancer cells to attack the body, because they have been damaged. In fact, inflammation is now considered the number one cause of diseases such as cancer, arthritis, and autoimmune diseases.

Do you see an analogy? We throw a bomb in Iraq, or a bomb in Afghanistan, and a few people die and we say it is collateral damage. It is collateral damage, but look at the consequences of that collateral damage. Normal, good people who only want a good, safe life now join terrorist groups in the same way that normal cells join the terrorist cells that we call cancer.

Mahatma Gandhi said, “If you want to change the world you have to be the change you want to see

in the world.” Let’s make a commitment to be the change. Let’s make a commitment to make a little difference in our families, starting with our little family, which is our husband, wife, mother, father, children. But then let’s extend it, because as the Upanishads of India said, “The world is my family.” Let the world be our family.

If you want to change the world you have to be the change you want to see in the world. Let’s make a commitment to be the change.



Top Left: Geneva, Switzerland

Top Right: Russia

Bottom Left: Los Angeles, USA

Bottom Right: China

BECOMING GLOBAL CITIZENS OF PEACE

By UPF-International

Over 3,000 leaders of Korean society and nearly 200 dignitaries from overseas gathered at the COEX center in Seoul to celebrate the successful publication of the surprising new best-seller, *Becoming a Global Citizen of Peace*, the autobiographical memoir of one of Korea's best-known and most controversial citizens, the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Now in his 90th year, the international religious leader was joined at the event by his wife of 50 years, Hak Ja Han, and several of the couple's 14 children and more than 40 grandchildren.

Among those offering congratulatory remarks was H.E. Alfred Moisiu, the recent past president of Albania. "The world recognizes Rev. Moon as the type of man who cannot be limited to any one field of activity," Moisiu said. "He has made significant contributions in the diverse social fields of religion, culture, knowledge, economy, and politics. In particular he did a great deal to help Albania and Eastern Europe transition from the communist era."

The Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., the five-time Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives, praised Rev. Moon's idea to create an interreligious council at the United Nations in order to help end conflicts based on religious and ethnic disputes. "We have made enormous progress toward the realization of the vision first proposed by Dr. Moon," he said.

Moisiu and de Venecia were part of a delegation of 142 foreign dignitaries from 89 nations who had gathered in Seoul for an International Leadership Conference sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation. These conferences examine ways to navigate toward peace, based on the UPF's objectives of interreligious cooperation, creating a culture of service, and strengthening the family.

With tensions in the region high following North Korea's most recent nuclear tests, ILC delegates considered

the importance of "soft-power" diplomacy, not only on the troubled Korean peninsula but also in other conflict areas around the world.

The conference was also notable for the contribution of several outstanding women peace leaders. Dr. Falak Al-Jamani, a member of the Jordanian parliament and a former general in the Royal Jordanian army, called for an urgent recommitment to peace in the Middle East and an end to the cycle of violence and mutual mistrust. Mrs. Fauzia Assifi reported about her work with Afghan women and children in Kabul, following her return to the city of her birth after living for more than 20 years in the United States. And Dr. Ruta Pels, representing the Estonian chapter of People to People, the NGO founded by US President Dwight D. Eisenhower, spoke of efforts to help impoverished children throughout the nations of the former Soviet Union.

In his remarks at the COEX center, Rev. Moon emphasized both the urgency and opportunity of the current time for launching a transformative effort for peace through what he called a "true-love revolution" and spoke of his conviction in the arrival of a new era of peace.

"In the end, reconciliation and peace will come about through lineage," he said. "When blacks and whites, Eastern and Western peoples, Buddhists and Christians, and Jews and Muslims intermarry and carry on the tradition that I have established, this world will naturally form the realm of one family that can establish God's homeland of peace."



Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Universal Peace Federation



H.E. Alfred Moisiu, former president of Albania



A Culture of Service

Neil Bush, Chairman of the Points of Light Institute, USA



The Points of Light Institute founded by my father, President George H. Bush, promotes service with the hope that some day everybody will feel the transformational call to service, the duty to give back to their community, and some day we'll have a culture of service established globally.

The good news is that volunteerism is on the rise. Our network of 250 volunteer centers and 12,000 service providers in the US report that 60 per cent more people are stepping up to volunteer. Corporations are organizing service days. Churches, synagogues, and mosques are sending more people to solve society's problems. The bad news is that community problems and global problems persist.

The breakdown of family is taking its toll. Male children from divorced homes are 12 times more likely to be imprisoned than those from intact homes. Boys born to unwed parents are 22 times more at risk of being jailed, and far more likely to fall into poverty. A child with a single parent is twice as likely to drop out of school, three times as likely to give birth out of wedlock, and six times more likely to commit suicide. These problems cannot be solved by government alone. Problems are being solved every single day, everywhere, by individuals, families, and groups of caring citizens.

Let me tell you about one inspiring example. Edith Harvey, a Georgian from the United States, a 94-year-old lady, has been a regular volunteer at a senior center for 30 years. Edith has prepared more than one million meals for her fellow seniors, totally voluntary. She contributed more than 17,000 hours and mentored 100 inmates. When you ask her what the result was she said, "I reckon that none of them have gone bad yet."



The role of the Universal Peace Federation in bringing people of different faiths together to solve problems and to seek world peace is noble and important. Faith strengthens family, and close families are the best preventative medicine for many of society's woes.

The Family as an Instrument of Peace

Mrs. Geetha Rajan, Trustee of UPF-India



The UPF call for "One family under God" resonates with an ancient Indian philosophical assertion of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, a Sanskrit phrase that means that the whole world is one single family. This concept was put forward by our sages long before nations and peoples imagined that they would be as interdependent as they are today. It cements the diverse religions, castes, and languages of India into one secular, tolerant, democratic nation.

The tradition in India is for several generations to live together, not only for economic reasons but because the family is a cradle of life and love. It is a divine institution that teaches peace, tolerance, compassion, respect for elders, loving concern for the weak or the sick, protection for the vulnerable, and care for every member. The family is the child's first school, temple, and playground.

Just as a family depends on the cooperation of its members, so also the community and the greater human family depends on the cooperation, understanding, and consent of all of us. We are above all a community of brothers and sisters of a great family, acknowledging God as the source of our existence.

Let us recognize that only by conducting ourselves as members of one family can we tackle environmental degradation, climate change, energy security, poverty and malnutrition, insurgencies, and indeed terrorism. We need to show the same solidarity and sensitivity that we ideally display in our family to the underprivileged, the hungry, people of other faiths, religions, and nations, and to the earth as our common home.

Faith strengthens family, and close families are the best preventative medicine for many of society's woes.

— NEIL BUSH

Spiritual Values as a Foundation for Leadership

*H.E. Gabriel Messan
Agbeyome Kodjo, Prime
Minister of Togo (2000-
2002)*



Often, in leadership meetings, we learn what needs to be done, but because people's hearts are not moved, the situation remains unchanged. Here, we discover the situation from the point of view of God, our heavenly parent. We also discover that the solution is within us.

The first power a leader should exercise is not over others but over himself. If you cannot control yourself, you will never have any real power over others. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a great social reformer, but he always made it very clear that first of all he was a spiritual leader. His most difficult battles were battles against himself, and his internal victories were reflected in social changes. In order to conquer ourselves, we need to welcome the presence of the divine within us. When a leader is at peace with God and with himself, the people around him will sense it and respect him.

Second, a true leader should not impose himself on others but serve them. Jesus did not shy away from showing his power and leadership, but he served people and said that the greatest among the disciples would be the one who serves the most.

Third, a true leader should be like a parent. Of course leaders need knowledge, technical abilities, and skills. Mr. Muhammad Yunus from Bangladesh, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, studied

at top schools and learned the art of creating wealth. These academic studies, however, work in affluent nations but are irrelevant for poor people. He could have practiced the same "orthodox" economics, but he saw poverty with the heart of a parent and reached out to the poor.

I am grateful to my brothers and sisters gathered here for teaching me these precious lessons.

Being with People who Strive for Peace

*Hon. Mohammad Yusuf bin
Pengiran Abdul Rahim, first
Prime Minister of Brunei*



I was taught by my family to respect all people. I learned how to live in peace and harmony in this world, but unfortunately, instead of peace, I got war. On the morning of August 6, 1945, I was in a classroom at Hiroshima University, where I was a student, when something that seemed like lightning struck our classroom. I still remember our professor telling us to go back to our hostel and look for our friends. That whole area of Hiroshima was in rubble. We could hear the voices of people calling for their father, their mother, their friend, or their sister.

I feel very honored to be asked to come to Korea to attend this peace gathering with Muslims, Buddhists, and Christians. The Qur'an speaks about peace. It is a joyous moment to be able to congregate with people who strive for peace.

A Better Future

*Dr. Falak Al-Jamani, Member
of Parliament, Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan*



The Arab-Israeli conflict remains unsolvable as long as it is set in absolute terms that require either Israeli's destruction or the exile and political disappearance of Palestinian Arabs. Only when both sides perceive that neither can be eliminated will they be ready to live in peace.

The Palestinian children especially in Gaza suffer humiliation, harm, frustration, and murder. They need a voice for peace. The Palestinian children are no less desperate than the children in Iraq,

*A true leader should
not impose himself on
others but serve them.*

*A true leader should be
like a parent.*

— H.E. GABRIEL MESSAN
AGBEYOME KODJO



WORLD SUMMIT ON PEACE

Afghanistan, and Darfur. The ideals of democracy should work to stop the bloodshed and draw a better future for a people who have suffered for more than 50 years from violent occupation and persistent ignorance from the rest of the world.

Promoting Reconciliation

*H.E. Dr. Hasan Muratovic,
Prime Minister of Bosnia
(1996-1997)*



I've been involved in conflict resolution for more than 17 years. Those who came to our country said they were not a peace-making mission but rather a peace-keeping mission. But since there was no peace, we considered them partly to blame for the whole tragedy of the region.

We formed an inter-religious council in Bosnia-Herzegovina led by heads of four religious bodies: Roman Catholic, Orthodox Christians, Muslims, and Jews. They meet regularly and discuss political problems. Some people attack them saying "You religious leaders must not be in politics." But we are all part of politics, and religious insights are needed in politics.

Although the fighting may have stopped, the conflict has not been truly finished because there is no reconciliation. We need to educate students and teachers about the idea of one family under God. We have open borders, and people are ready to reestablish good relations. We need a peace festival that can gather people from the whole region and communicate the principles of peace to them.

Peace Will Not Come by Force

*Mrs. Fauzia Assifi, Founder
and President, Authentic
Afghanistan Promotion and
Publishing*



Why are the nations in the world involved in bringing peace to Afghanistan and yet we are still the killing field of the world today?

I returned to Afghanistan in 2003 and the next year started working for the government of Afghanistan. We put together a national strategy for rebuilding and presented it to the world in December 2005.

People were surprised to see such a wonderful plan and pledged 21 billion dollars in support. More than 42 billion dollars has come, but the capital, Kabul, still does not have adequate paved roads, sidewalks, health care, drinking water, or electricity. Meanwhile, corruption is spreading, more narcotics are being produced than ever before, and money is being taken out of the country illegally. Everyone is benefiting from it except the Afghans.

I teach at the American University of Afghanistan. I teach leadership to young Afghani women. However, people have lost their respect for each other. We are supposed to be role models for our children, but where is the model?

I am a devout Muslim, but not a fanatic. It says in our Qur'an that we must love people of all nations and all walks of life. It doesn't matter how they look, how they talk, how they walk, or what their ideology is: they are all children of God. We all come from God, and we must respect each other.

Peace will not come through force. There are troops from 42 nations in Afghanistan, but they do not coordinate their activities with the National Security Forces. I have pleaded with the ambassadors of these nations to cooperate, but they will not work together.

This is the time for the UN to do what it supposed to do: bring peace and harmony — bring reconciliation and not take sides or play favorites.

Please pray for Afghanistan. Pray for the Afghani people. People are dying of hunger and disease. Pray for the end of pain in that country.

*We are all part of
politics, and religious
insights are needed in
politics.*

— H.E. HASAN MURATOVIC



CLIMBING EVEREST ONE STEP AT A TIME

*Gokul Thapa, UPF-Nepal
Interviewed by Robert S. Kittel*



Our Mt. Everest expedition was for a noble cause: to support the government, to unite all the political parties and all the religions around the mission of writing a new constitution for our nation, and to help bring peace to all nations. The Universal Peace Federation supported us very much. I know that people were praying for our success.

This was a very challenging time for the climbers; we literally risked our lives. We carried a banner signed by the heads of all political parties, government leaders, and all religious leaders in Nepal, as a symbol of national unity and reflecting the spirit of nation-building. All the people who signed the banner should know and understand what kind of effort and unified focus this expedition took. We didn't do this for ourselves, but for the future of this nation.

It was only with a very strong heart of determination — not half-hearted, but a total commitment — that we could carry out this mission. The political leaders also should have this kind of dedication and willingness to sacrifice even their lives for the sake of Nepal's bright future.

It is usually very expensive to climb Mt. Everest. A foreign climber usually has one Sherpa as his or

her personal guide to accompany them during the whole trip. If they have lots of money, they may have as many as three personal guides. In addition to this, there are usually four or five porters for each climber. They act as helpers to carry equipment up and down the mountain.

There were only eight members on our team: five climbers, two porters,

and one cook. We had to do everything ourselves. And even then, only three of the climbers actually reached the summit.

Two of the climbers didn't reach the top. One developed a fever and headache; he turned back just below South Col, at about 7,800 meters. The other felt cold and started coughing; he turned back at 8,000 meters. In both cases, it was their own decision. This was made clear at the very beginning.

I almost turned back three times.

The first time I almost gave up was just after leaving camp 3. We had started walking in the early morning, while it was still dark. After the sun came up I forgot to put on my sunglasses and continued walking for over an hour. I got snow-blindness, and my eyes hurt so much. We were between camp 3 and camp 4, at the Geneva Spur, and I could see people but could not recognize who they were. I only saw foggy images. My eyes were painful and tears kept coming. When we started for the summit at about 8:30 that night. I was using my headlamp, but still I could not see anything except the rope and the person just in front of me. I thought maybe I could not make it, but I decided to try.

'Just take the next step,' I told myself. "One step at a time."

When the sun rose, I put on my glasses with the goggles over them, but still my eyes hurt. After reaching the summit, I stayed about an hour and returned as quickly as I could. Usually snow-blindness lasts 24 hours, but at noon, the pain became even worse. I almost ran back to camp 4, on South Col, because of my eye pain. The other two summiters came later, and we all slept at camp 4 that night. The next morning I was better.

The second time I almost gave up was after starting for the summit. I had rushed to get dressed and arrange my oxygen supply. I did everything like I had done before, but when I started climbing, suddenly I could not breathe properly. I was taking shallow breaths at a very high speed. A Sherpa from

(Below) A banner symbolizing religious and political unity in the quest for peace was displayed at the summit.



SOUTH ASIA PEACE INITIATIVE

another expedition, Nangyal Sherpa, was our advisor, and he quickly opened everything I was wearing: my helmet, mask, even my clothes. He rearranged things, and then I could start breathing again; otherwise, I would not have continued.

The third time was at about 8,500 meters, just below what is called the “second summit.” As we were climbing, suddenly my oxygen supply cut off. A valve in my mask became clogged, and I was not getting any oxygen. I said to myself, “I think I’m going to die. Surely I’m going to die.”

Facing this life-and-death situation, I started to think about my parents and my wife. But I deter-

mined that I would continue and make this offering for peace.

Then Nangyal came again; he had an extra mask with him, and he put it on me. I was exhausted, but he said, “Just follow me. I’ll take care of you.” His words were a great inspiration and encouragement for me. Without the support of Da Galje Sherpa, Nangyal Sherpa, and their team, we would not have made it to the summit.

At the summit we offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Then I took my face mask off and shouted, “One family under God!”

On May 20, three Nepali climbers reached the summit of Mt. Everest and unfurled a banner that read “Mt. Everest Expedition for a New Constitution and World Peace – 2009.” People climb the world’s highest mountain for many reasons, often for adventure or personal glory. But these climbers, on behalf of all the Ambassadors for Peace in Nepal, scaled Nepal’s landmark to call their nation’s attention to the need for teamwork and unity transcending political and religious differences as the national Constitution is being written. The banner was signed by heads of 25 political parties, nine religious groups, and UPF Founders, Father and Mother Moon.

“This is the first project in the history of Nepal that was supported by all political parties and religions,” said Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, Secretary General of UPF-Nepal.

The day they reached the summit, Nepali political leaders were meeting with parliamentarians from throughout Asia who had come to the eighth South Asia Peace Initiative meeting to lend their insights and support for peaceful progress in the nation.



Summiteers (L to R): Karma Bahdaur Tamang, Gokul Thapa, Da Dendi Sherpa

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RECONCILIATION

By UPF-Austria

All people of this world have a right to live in peace, and we have to be ready to take responsibility for that.... we should work for a better world without violence and injustice.

— HON. WERNER FAYMAN

Three hundred participants and civil society leaders representing more than 40 NGOs gathered on April 9 in one of the largest NGO conferences ever held in the United Nations building in Vienna, in the UNIDO Board Room, to attend the Austrian event of the Global Peace Tour 2009 entitled “Reconciliation and the Role of Global Peace Festivals.” More than 20 embassies were represented by the ambassador or a senior staff member. The event was made possible thanks to the support of the NGO Liaison office at the UN in Vienna.

The Austrian Prime Minister, Werner Fayman, sent a message of encouragement, which was read by the Secretary General of the Austrian chapter of the Universal Peace Federation, Mr. Peter Haider: “All people of this world have a right to live in peace, and we have to be ready to take responsibility for that.... We can’t simply accept a negative situation as our destiny; rather we should work for a better world without violence and injustice. Especially events such as this create a platform for those who are ready to do this. Therefore this ‘Global Peace Tour’ is an important step in our endeavors for overall peace and enables us to have hope for the future.”

The Vienna Peace Choir sang two songs: “The Trout,” an Austrian classic by Franz Schubert, and

“Let There Be Peace on Earth,” which inspired UN staff and was a refreshing change to sometimes dry meetings.

Pursuant to UN resolution 61/17 proclaiming 2009 as the International Year of Reconciliation, Dr. Christian Bruenner, a professor of constitutional law, chaired a session on this topic.

The chairman of the UN NGO Committee on Peace, Dr. Klaus Renoldner, spoke about the success of his organization, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, in promoting the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization is located in the Vienna International Centre. He expressed his satisfaction about US President Barack Obama’s recent call “to rid the world of nuclear weapons.”

Mrs. Lilly Gundacker from the Women’s Federation for World Peace, an active member of various NGO committees at the UN in Vienna, then explained their ongoing project to have “Bridge of Peace” ceremonies as a concrete step to cross the distance between women and also men of enemy nations.

Mr. Stefan Maier, the Middle East coordinator of Caritas Austria, used photos to give a lively insight into his experience in organizing International Peace

Vienna’s United Nations International Centre



Camps for children in the Middle East, which he has been doing since 1999 in a different country every year.

Mag. Gudrun Kramer, co-director of the Institute for Integrative Conflict Transformation and Peace Building, spoke about her experience as a mediator in conflicts in Sri Lanka since the tsunami. She explained how it took one year to find a way to build houses donated by a campaign of the Austrian daily newspaper Kurier for Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu flood victims in the same village.

The session concluded with a speech by H.E. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. He explained that people of more than 20 different nationalities live in his country. In the new capital, Astana, the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation was built in the form of a pyramid, where a "Congress of leaders of world and traditional religions" is held every three years.

The second part of the conference was chaired by Mrs. Zena Eggough, a distinguished member of the wider Vienna UN community, especially active with the UN Women's Guild. Dr. Young-Cheol Song described how the Global Peace Tour promotes "One Family under God" — a platform of interfaith cooperation, strengthening the family, and a culture of service. He said that the UN, "which should be helping the world to live together as one," has adopted an entirely secularist worldview, excluding the spiritual dimension of human experience.

As a European counterpart, Dr. Leo Gabriel, a founding member of the World Social Forum, reported that at a recent conference at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, it was postulated that this crisis for capitalism might have an impact similar to the fall of the Berlin Wall on communism.

P. Haider, coordinator for the Global Peace Festival in Austria, closed with a dynamic speech about the vision of young people of Vienna as a city of peace.

20 YEARS SINCE THE FALL OF THE IRON CURTAIN

By Mag. Elisabeth Cook & Peter Haider, UPF-Austria

UPF-Austria held a June 20 conference on "20 Years Since the Fall of the Iron Curtain" to commemorate the historical events of June 1989 that dissolved the barriers between the Soviet bloc and Western Europe. The Hungarian Ambassador to Austria, Dr. Istvan Horvath, was invited to share his experiences. He had been Ambassador to Germany 20 years ago when the Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock and the Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn symbolically cut the Iron Curtain at the border between Austria and Hungary allowing the East German "tourists" to cross the border, against the will of the German Democratic Republic's Communist regime.

A representative of the Ambassador of Hungary, Csaba Mazák, described the cooperation between Hungary and Austria in initiating the fall of the Iron Curtain. A video summarizing the events of 1989 as they had been presented on TV recalled vividly this memorable time for the participants of the conference.

In the second session, Austrians who had spent the time between 1980 and 1990 in countries behind the Iron Curtain shared some of their experiences: Christine Segato, who was coordinating the project "Mission Butterfly," reported about adventurous journeys to countries of the former Soviet Union, hiding Bibles and other forbidden material in a specially prepared van.

Mag. Elisabeth Cook gave insight into the life of an Austrian student in Budapest in Communist Hungary, Mag. Elisabeth Brandner described her work as a Communist tour guide in former Yugoslavia, and Christian Zwerger explained how he was guided by God to find the most suitable person to help him spread the ideas of a God-centered life in Communist Bulgaria.

Classical music from Austria opened the final session, followed by two charming young folk singers from Romania.

A round-table discussion concluded the conference. Students from Austria and East European countries were joined by the Russian anthropologist Alexej Klutschewsky and Juraj Lajda, a Czech publisher who was imprisoned in Communist Czechoslovakia as a member of the then considered "dangerous" Unification Movement. They shared their reflections about the fall of the Iron Curtain and the implications for today's Europe. In summary, they urged people to keep treasuring freedom and use it to strengthen the bonds between the countries of Eastern and Western Europe.

In conclusion, a young Korean opera singer expressed her oriental heart with music from the East and the West. The audience expressed their best wishes that the bamboo curtain in her homeland between North and South Korea may fall soon too.



GLOBAL PEACE TOUR 2009

ONE FAMILY UNDER GOD

Moving Beyond Cambodia's Legacy of Genocide

*Dr. Robert S. Kittel, Director of Peace
Education, UPF-Asia*

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the overthrow of the Pol Pot dictatorship that brutally slaughtered as many as two million Cambodians — one third of the population. In March, the trial began in Phnom Penh, the capital city, for “Duch,” the former prison chief of the notorious Toul Sleng prison. Human rights activists were calling for justice through prosecution, while Prime Minister Hun Sen was asking for reconciliation and healing.

Toul Sleng prison was originally a high school, and as many as 30,000 people were killed there. The torture devices on display remind Cambodians and the world of the inhumanity of the communist regime.

Against this background UPF held a conference March 30-31 about “A New Paradigm for Peace in the 21st Century” at the Chak Tomuk Hall and Sunway Hotel.

The theme struck a somber chord with Cambodians. More than 850 people listened with rapt attention as the basic principles of peace and good governance were discussed, especially the concept

of loving one's enemy. The audience included government ministers, secretaries of state, a senator, members of Parliament, NGO leaders, legal experts, Buddhist monks, academics, and students.

Asked what idea most appealed to him, Kong Sokleng, Executive Director of the Student Monks Association, smiled and replied, “This idea that we are one family under God.” Although 95 percent of Cambodians are Buddhists, there is freedom of religion unparalleled in many other countries today.

H.E. Ton Sa Im, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Education, noted with special interest that, “the highest values of human beings are spiritual and moral in nature and, therefore, must serve as the basic foundation of leadership and good governance.”

Transcending the Muslim- Christian Divide in Nigeria

UPF-Nigeria

An International Leadership Conference on the theme “One Family under God: A New Vision for Peace in the 21st Century” took place April 29 at the International Conference Centre, Abuja, the capital of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This event drew participants from across the country.

Chief Amb. Segun Olusola chaired the event. He is a former Nigerian Ambassador to Ethiopia, founder of the African Refugees Foundation, and Chairman of the UPF Nigeria Board of Trustees. Chief Olusola summarized the core values of UPF as spirituality, love, and service to all. Reminiscing on the violent clashes between Christians and Muslims last December in Jos, he stressed the need for proactive peacebuilding by civil society organizations.

Two representatives of the Interfaith Mediation Centre (a Muslim-Christian Dialogue Forum in Kaduna), Rev. Bitrus Dangiwa and Imam Mohammad Sani Isah, talked about interfaith cooperation in

Youth performance in
Cambodia



GLOBAL PEACE TOUR

resolving conflicts. They represented Imam Ashafa Mohammed and Pastor James Wuye. These two religious leaders had fought each other in the violent Christian-Muslim conflicts in the northern Nigerian City of Kaduna eight years ago. However, they have now reconciled and are working together to promote interfaith cooperation.

A comment by Dr. Emmanuel Akpan reflected the general mood of the participants: "I was a victim of religious riots in Kano several years ago, and I know how strongly the protagonists can express hatred toward each other. I am amazed to see these two gentlemen embracing each other on stage, sharing a podium and calling on everyone to eschew bitterness and hatred in the name of religion. I can't believe this is happening in Nigeria. Everyone should learn about a program like this."

A high point of this session was a dramatic presentation by the Epoch Group about the union of a Christian family and Muslim family through marriage. A young Christian man has fallen in love with a young Muslim woman. They intend to marry, but the Muslim family cannot accept this. Years before, the young man's father had donated one of his kidneys to the girl's father. When the girl's parents realize this connection, they cannot oppose the marriage. Thus true love prevails. The drama was beautifully presented. Some participants shed tears.

Students in India Respond to a Call for Peace

By UPF-India

Students from several universities joined leaders representing 11 nations, 12 states of India, all major faith traditions, and all walks of life in the common cause of peace on April 2 at the beautiful and prestigious auditorium of the Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College of Delhi University.

Dr. Shrivatsa Goswami, Acharya, Sri Radharamana Mandir, blessed the occasion with an interfaith invocation. "Peace must come through ethical and moral principles," he said. Ambassador K.V. Rajan, Executive Vice-Chairman of UPF-India, explained UPF's focus on service and family.

Dr. Sudershan Pathak, Director of Sports at Delhi University, invited faculty and students from all the 83 colleges of the host university. Other schools represented by professors, students and trustees included Jamia Hamdard University, Amity University, Mt. Olivet School, and Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur College.

Dr. C.S. Pran, Director of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangatham, gathered 50 youth leaders and volunteers from his organization, which is associated with the Ministry of Youth and Sports. A large delegation from the National Service Scheme Jamia Millia Islamia, under the leadership of Dr. Abid Hussain, crossed the entire city to reach the venue despite the onset of their final exams.

The delegation of the illustrious St. Stephen's College included Principal Dr. Walson Thampu, Chaplain Rev. Clement Rajakumar, and members of the Social Service League. Dr. Thampu emphasized the need for peace education: "As God's children," he said, "we should manifest God's nature within us, not the hatred and violence that come to us so naturally." The delegation resolved to make their college a "peace laboratory."

The guest of honor, H.E. Murlidhar C. Bhandare, Governor of Orissa, applauded UPF-India's efforts for peace. "The course of human history is determined not by what happens in the skies, but what takes place in the human heart," he said. "UPF-India is playing a very important role in giving strength and support to the movement of peace. We have to transform our thoughts into action to build a better and peaceful world for us and also for generations to come."

Dr. V. Mohini Giri, Chairperson of Guild of Service, concluded by asking all to join hands in building a peaceful world.



Youth Ambassador for Peace Award presented in India

*As God's children
we should manifest
God's nature within
us, not the hatred and
violence that come to
us so naturally.*

— DR. WALSON THAMPU



Panel speakers observing the Nigerian National Anthem

We have to transform our thoughts into action to build a better and peaceful world for us and also for generations to come.

— H.E. MURLIDHAR BHANDARE

Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak (middle) and Dr. Thomas Walsh (left) with newly appointed Ambassadors for Peace in Rome

Leaders of Five Religions Gather in Rome

By Giuseppe Cali, UPF-Italy

Prominent politicians and religious leaders assembled in the Italian parliament for an April 1 peace conference. Participants included a representative from the Rome Mosque, the largest in Europe, several Protestant churches, and Buddhist, Sikh, and Hindu communities.

A Catholic theologian spoke in depth on the importance of love in peacebuilding. Senator Albertina Soliani gave an impassioned speech about



human rights and her work in support of the people of Burma. Although she is a politician, it was interesting to see how skillfully she interwove spiritual insights into her presentation.

Peace Is the Theme of City Festival in Brazil

By UPF-Brazil

A peace march, an international conference, service activities, and a festival brought the message of peace to Santa Catarina in southern Brazil April 18-24. The events were made possible by local Ambassadors for Peace and were sponsored by local organizations and the city council.

In celebration of the city's 115th birthday, youth and adults dressed in white T-shirts and carried banners with peace messages. The march was sponsored by the Secretary of Tourism and Culture and Mr. João Carlos Amândio (Bala). "It is an honor for me and my family to wave the flag of peace," Mr. Amândio said. "We congratulate all those who promote peace in their daily life." Thirty-five young volunteers came from Sao Paulo to help clean the festival site and give character education lectures in the schools.

A conference on leadership at UNISUL University attracted 120 guests. A city council member gave congratulatory remarks on behalf of Mayor Ronério. Prof. Wilson Tomio Monomi spoke on ethics and character, and Dr. Neudir Simão Ferabolli spoke about leadership.

An interfaith water ceremony on April 19 consisted of representatives pouring water into a central vase, symbolizing harmony among religions. Participants included an Anglican priest, a youth leader from the Hare Krishna Movement, a couple from the Baha'i Faith, and a pastor from the Four Square Evangelical Church. Rev. Dong Mo Shin closed the ceremony with a Peace Message.

Peace Forum in the Peruvian Congress

Trevor Jones, Executive Director, UPF-Peru

June was a difficult month for Peru. Following a long period of disagreement between the Alan Garcia government and the indigenous people in the Amazon forest in the north of Peru, the native residents blocked the main roads in protest against plans to allow oil and logging companies to enter what they consider to be their own land. Unfortunately, the fighting that followed this blockade left 24 policemen and 11 local people dead.

During this time of violent clashes over development plans, UPF-Peru held a forum on June 18 in the Congress to promote a culture of peace. The planning committee was concerned about the security, since protest marches were being held daily in the center of Lima, but they decided to move forward.

The event in the Faustino Sánchez Carrión auditorium was opened by Congresswoman Sucari, the co-sponsor of the event. Distinguished speakers included the Minister of Defense, Dr. Antero Flores Araoz, whose theme was "The Defense of Peace." Other presenters included Congressman Dr. Pedro Santos on ethics, sociologist Manuel Arana Soto on civil society peacebuilding efforts, and Dr. Bertha Chong Long on values education. UPF President Arq. Luis Huaracaya spoke about social inclusion and Faith Jones about "Living for the sake of others."

The stage was then prepared for lighting peace candles by Christian, Muslim and Inca leaders. Prayers were offered followed by two poems about peace.

GLOBAL PEACE TOUR

Ukraine Supports an Interreligious Council at the United Nations

By Igor Korsun, Secretary General, UPF - Ukraine

A conference on “One Family under God: A New Vision of Peace in the 21st Century” was held in Kiev on March 19 at the Premier Palace Hotel. It was organized by the Universal Peace Federation and the Ukrainian Peace Council, a Ukrainian NGO. Among the 350 participants were renowned public figures, writers, scientists, artists, and representatives of many Ukrainian and international NGOs.

The conference in Kiev was opened by former President Leonid Kravchuk, who mentioned that the Ukrainian people have the moral right to be in the vanguard of a global peacemaking process because their history is an example of peacemaking efforts, in particular as a country which voluntarily renounced its nuclear weapons.

Dr. Katsumi Ohtsuka, Chair of UPF-Eurasia, spoke about UPF activities in various countries and appealed to conference participants to join this international peacemakers’ movement.



Ambassadors for Peace in Ukraine

Other speakers included a famous poet of Ukraine, Borys Oliynyk, the head of the State Department of Nationalities and Religion at the Oleksandr Sagan, and biochemistry research institute director, academician Sergiy Komisarenko. They shared their opinions about peace, the relationship between religion and science, and the necessity of establishing an interreligious peace council at the United Nations.

It is no secret that most conflicts in the world have some religious basis. Conference participants supported UPF’s proposal for an interreligious body at the UN which will work to prevent conflicts and promote lasting peace.

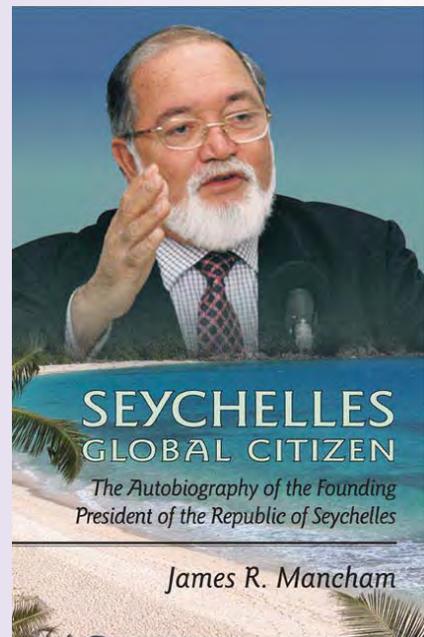
SEYCHELLES GLOBAL CITIZEN

There is growing competition for power and influence in the Indian Ocean, which is considered the world’s pre-eminent energy and trade interstate seaway at the time when China and India find themselves locked in an “uncomfortable embrace.” No one is better qualified to tell this story than Sir James R. Mancham KBE, Founding President of the Republic of Seychelles, the archipelago of 110 idyllic islands, who was overthrown in a Marxist coup in 1977 while he was in London to celebrate the Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Sir James was also the lawyer for Philco-Ford, Pan Am, and RCA when the US Air Force decided to build a strategic tracking station in Seychelles to gather military intelligence about the former Soviet Union during the Cold War.

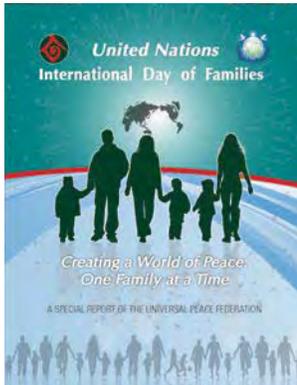
As Prime Minister of Seychelles, Sir James witnessed very closely the establishment by the USA of its most modern naval, air, and military complex on the island of Diego Garcia. But Sir James’s autobiography, Seychelles Global Citizen, is more than a political treatise about the conflict for power and influence in the Indian Ocean and about internal political intrigue and turmoil; it is also the story of a colorful human being who has been dubbed “the Trudeau of the East” and “the Ernest Hemmingway of the Indian Ocean.”

“James Mancham is the first President of Seychelles, one of several firsts achieved by this remarkable man. There is no doubt that here is a man with the capacity for high office —not only in his own country but also internationally.... He is ambitious, politically shrewd and a devoted Seychellois. He has the flamboyance of a Trudeau, the political determination of a Lee Kuan Yew and the stamina for travel of a Kissinger.”

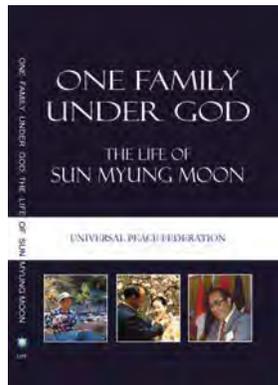
—Alan Baily, *The Times of London*



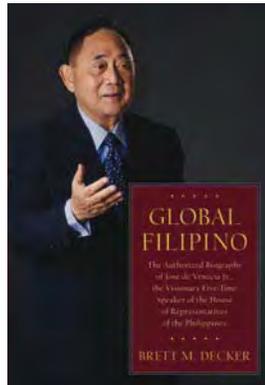
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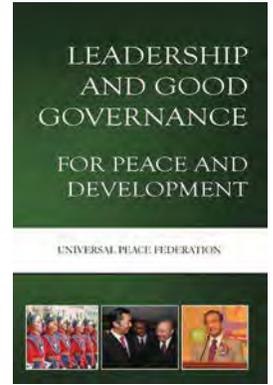
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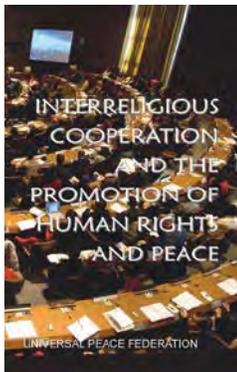
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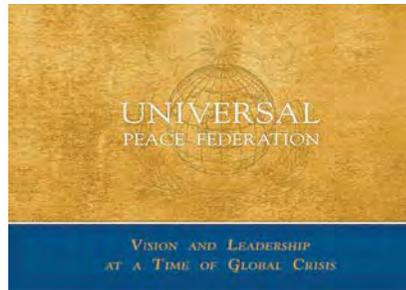
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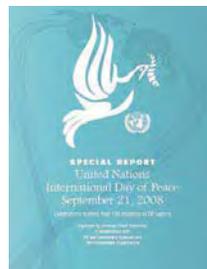
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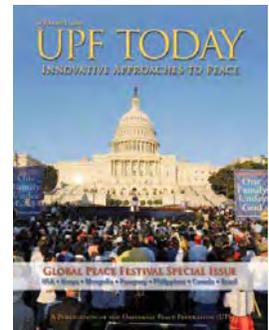
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Reports from International Day of Peace celebrations in 58 countries on September 21, 2008. Organized by the Universal Peace Federation in collaboration with agencies of the UN, governments, and non-government organizations.



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The present time marks an important milestone in the development of civilization. We stand at a critical junction of human history where we can complete the providence of building God's fatherland and peace kingdom.
— Dr. Sun Myung Moon

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INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

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