

A Life in Service to Peace

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Session VII: A Life in Service to Peace

Tim Miller—*Vice-Chair of the Universal Peace Federation in Europe*. He has been instrumental in developing UPF's European Leadership Conferences since 2004, with more than 50 such conferences having taken place until now in Europe, mostly in United Nations institutions and national Parliaments in the last year.

After describing UPF founder Reverend Moon's childhood, Mr. Miller recited the poem, "Crown of Glory" written by Reverend Moon, the founder of UPF, when he was only 15 years old, showing his deep heart even at this early age. He explained that Rev. Moon had been tortured when he worked for Korea's independence during his student days in Japan. Nevertheless, rather than harbouring resentment, he assisted many Japanese to leave Korea following its liberation after WWII.



Crown of Glory

When I doubt people, I feel pain.
When I judge people, it is unbearable.
When I hate people, there is no value to my existence.

Yet if I believe, I am deceived.
If I love, I am betrayed.
Suffering and grieving tonight, my head in my hands
Am I wrong?

Yes, I am wrong.
Even though we are deceived, still believe.
Though we are betrayed, still forgive.
Love completely even those who hate you.

Wipe your tears away and welcome with a smile
Those who know nothing but deceit
And those who betray without regret.

Oh Master! The pain of loving!
Look at my hands.
Place your hand on my chest.
My heart is bursting, such agony!

But when I loved those who acted against me

I brought victory.
If you have done the same thing,
I will give you the crown of glory.

*Poem written by Sun Myung Moon
(Written when he was 16 years old)*

Afterwards, he reflected deeply on the meaning of life and later was called by God to go to North Korea where he worked for peace, but was imprisoned due to opposition from the existing Christian churches and eventually was confined in a labour camp where most people lasted only a few months. He survived and, after searching for his former disciples, he went to South Korea and established the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC). He was again imprisoned and charged with draft evasion, despite his being in a labour camp at the time. In 1960, he married Hak Ja Han and has since become well known for his dedication to marriage and conviction that the family is central to peace.

He has since dispatched missionaries to and has himself visited many other countries. In the 1970's he moved to the USA and worked for its revival and that of Christianity. As a result, he was unjustly imprisoned there on trumped up charges of tax evasion, but this led to many Christian leaders coming to his aid and even travelling to South Korea to pray for him at the very spot where he established HSA-UWC years earlier.

Rev. Moon has since instigated many projects including an interfaith seminary and the Little Angels, a performing arts troupe that have performed at UNESCO. He has also worked a great deal with the media and established many newspapers, including the Washington Times in the US capital city.

In 1990, Rev. Moon went to Moscow and met with President Gorbachev as part of a Media Conference and Summit Council meeting of former heads of state, where he described President Gorbachev as the president of peace, because of his opening up of the Soviet Union. Rev. Moon returned to North Korea in 1991 and met President Kim Il Sung with the attitude of winning his heart and has since been an important backchannel for dialogue with North Korea in the four party talks.

In conclusion, it should be mentioned that Rev. Moon's vision is that religions should be more concerned with world salvation than with their own denominations.



Monsignor Jacques GAILLOT –Roman Catholic Bishop of Partenia.

Jacques Gaillot, born September 11, 1935 in Saint-Dizier, France, was a bishop of the Roman Catholic Church. Having become bishop of the diocese of Evreux in 1982, he was discharged on January 13, 1995, due to his political positions, especially against nuclear weapons and the defense of minorities, which led him to be regarded by his peers as going beyond the reserve required of the clergy. His controversial commitments irritated the other French bishops and a number of priests and laity of his diocese. Appointed titular bishop of Partenia, he remains engaged in many social struggles, moral or political, through his website. Very tolerant, he allows Mass to be celebrated in the churches of his diocese of Evreux by priests of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Pius X even though they are still suspended 'a divinis'.

Monsignor GAILLOT started by reciting an inscription which states that “Renouncing other people is renouncing oneself”. Life should be for the welfare of others: a life given to others is a successful life.

He spoke on three topics:

(1) Building peace.

Peace is everyone’s affair and is in our hands. He spoke of his experience of being at an event with a Moroccan waiter and that everyone left without a word for him. The waiter said that this is normal because for those people he doesn’t exist. Monsignor Gaillot stated that exclusion, as in this example, is something that should not be allowed to happen. Monsignor Gaillot always advises newly married couples to (1) take the time to talk to each other and (2) if necessary, forgive each other. He has found that this advice is always greatly appreciated even by others present at the ceremony.

(2) Non-violence.

This cannot be imposed by decree, but is a personal choice. He visited Tunisia at the beginning of the Arab spring. 2 years before there was a violent oppression of those who demonstrated and now saw this crowd free from oppression through non-violent means. This was repeated in Egypt. He also gave the example of a 19 year old woman who successfully stood up to an aggressor and refused to give him her mobile phone on the grounds that she needed it to contact her friends to organize her work for peace! We should not be afraid but should stand up and look our aggressors in the eye to defuse the situation.

(3) Refuse injustice.

Monsignor GAILLOT lives in a multicultural community and was approached by a young man who was appointed a bishop in the Congo and was seeking his advice. Monsignor GAILLOT advised him not to tolerate injustice. He believes that if the young man does this he will make a great contribution to peace. He also spoke about Jewish people working with Palestinians to combat the injustice they experience on a daily basis.

In conclusion, he said that it is important that we be inculcated with peace.

Mr. Chansamone VORAVONG – President of FORIM



The forum of Organisations for International Solidarity on Migration Issues since 2005, a national platform of some 700 associations of diasporas cooperating in sub-Saharan Africa, the Maghreb, South-East Asia, the Caribbean Seas, the Indian Ocean. President of OLREC since 1989, he established the Laotian Communities Organization for Refugees and National Conciliation in 1989, for the resolution of the Indochinese refugees’ crisis, cooperating with the UNHCR and countries concerned. OLREC now focuses on cooperation for development.

Mr. VORAVONG came to France in 1981 as a refugee and became a French citizen 15 years ago. FORIM was created in 2002 as a national platform to bring together organisations working for immigration and has been recognized by France. It will soon have its 10th anniversary assembly at which Mr. VORAVONG will reassert his vision of a world of solidarity and peace in the current context of hostility toward immigration in France.

Mr. VORAVONG stated that the members of FORIM come from all corners of the earth and are new French [citizens] committed to partnering with others to lay the foundation for peace. Their goal is to establish new ethics for living. The encounter between human beings is an opportunity for enrichment. Life gives us the good fortune to meet and get to know each other. Immigration should be an act of love and commitment on both sides. Neither side should be set in stone, since society is also evolving. The definition of immigrants is people whose hearts and minds occupy two different countries, the original and destination. Immigrants are in the best position to propose sustainable development if they have not lost their structure in the race to become westernized. Spiritual life and moral values must be developed, including the virtues of trust, respect for others, forgiveness, mercy, etc.

Mr. VORAVONG cited Monsignor GAILLOT as well as Mr. Moulinet, secretary general of UPF in France, Brigitte Wada, president of WFWP in France, and Mr. Laurent Ladouce, director of the Culture et Peace Centre, as role models for his own life that have reassured him of the existence of other people prepared to stand up for peace.

Mr. VORAVONG said that he met UPF in the 1990's when he was director of a project to promote democracy in his home county of Laos. This project was not looked on kindly by the government of Laos. It was difficult for Mr. VORAVONG to be introduced to the government of Laos, since he is not himself a head of state. However, his organisation was able to convince the exiled H.R.H. Prince Sauryavong SAVANG who escaped after the war in Vietnam to help them. At a press conference, he announced that he was ready to organise all of the refugees to work for peace. Therefore, he was able to work with H.R.H. Prince Sauryavong SAVANG in order to meet with the current government of Laos.

During this time, he was introduced to the Summit Council for World Peace founded by Reverend Moon (now part of UPF) and travelled to North Korea as part of a delegation in an attempt to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and bring North Korea to the negotiating table. In conclusion, he stated that he never regretted his decision to work with UPF as an ambassador for peace, in spite of the misunderstanding surrounding its work and that he continues to do so.