

Celebration of the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week 2012
The House of Religion was invited as Guest to the Christian Science Church
Stuttgart, Germany, February 4, 2012



The House of Religion in Stuttgart was invited as Guest to the Christian Science Church to celebrate the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week 2012.

The church building is situated on the side of a hill in Stuttgart looking over the city center. It has a very impressive meeting hall for their services and the only decoration in the front of the room is a sign with the words "God is Love" written on it.



Even though we are experiencing temperatures way below zero, over 40 guests came to attend the program. There was a banner donated by the UPF Stuttgart proclaiming the Interfaith Harmony Week. Volker Steinlein, representative of the Christian Science Church, greeted all those attending and gave a short introduction, reading from the Bible and explaining a bit about their religious community.

After a song played on the organ, Hubert Arnoldi started his presentation. He is the chairman of UPF Stuttgart, Founder of the Interreligious Roundtable Stuttgart, as well as the first chairman of the House of Religions in Stuttgart. He told about the history of the development of the House of Religions and went on to explain the very important concerns they have. The cooperation and dialog between the various religious groups is fundamental in able to learn from one another, support each other and generate trust. Mr. Arnoldi cited parts of the Manifest of the Ecumenical Church Days in Munich last year which the House of Religions has integrated in their principles. Amazingly enough, the UN General Assembly also had put these principles in their Resolution for the World Interfaith Harmony Week.

Following his talk, there was a very special candle ceremony lit by seven representatives from different religions. It was accompanied by beautiful music on the organ and Mr. Samir El Midani, Moslem representative, closed the ceremony with a prayer.

Lutz Leverentz, representative from the Christian Science Church, then gave a powerpoint presentation of their understanding of God. They believe that God is Love, Father and Mother, Life, Mind, Soul, Spirit and

Principle, All in all... Goodness is real and Evil is nothing. Sin is life without God. Jesus is a human being absolutely one with God's character, therefore giving him the ability to heal. Death, Evil, Sin and Sickness have nothing to do with God. They base their teachings on 4 fundamental statements about God. Mary Baker Eddy used these 4 principles to develop the Christian Science teachings in the 19th Century. The Bible is the foundation of their belief. He then went on to explain about her life and works. He also mentioned the role of prayer, repentance, baptism and giving.

Volker Steinlein then ended the Program with the Lord's Prayer.

We all enjoyed wonderful refreshments lovingly prepared for us from the women from their congregation.