

"God and Peace – God's role in developing a peaceful world"

Wat Thai Temple, Norway, 2. October 2013



The second event of the My Faith-forum was held in a beautiful Buddhist temple near Oslo, under the title God and Peace. The staff in the temple had made wonderful preparations in organizing the table, banner, flower decoration and food.

While UPF had made the program, the Buddhist staff had taken full care of the venue. We literally came to a set table.

The arrangement took place on the 2nd October, which happened to be the Gandhi day. His example of finding inspiration in his faith served as a role model for our discussions.

The hindu panelist emphasized that we all live by God's energy and blessing. We need to be aware of that in order to live good lives

The Buddhist representative said that even if Buddhism does not talk about God, there is still a need to follow something higher than oneself. She put the concept dhamma in such a position, the highest teaching, like a natural law, that we must follow.

The Bahai member focused on the development of humanity. We have arrived at a new stage and

should use all means to reach our goal of world peace. There is only one God and we need to cooperate.

The Ahmadiyya imam mentioned universal values. Only such values will prevail. Man must pray with sincerity to God. Man lacks contact with their Creator today. Without God there is no peace.

The Unificationist presentation introduced the need to be in God's image. It touched upon the need to lead lives where our words and deeds, mind and bodies are in harmony. On that basis God can be with us.

Several comments and questions were raised. One of them was about reincarnation. The Buddhist representative answered that we should focus on reaching our goal now, in this life! We can find peace here and can experience nirvana in this life.

The evening concluded with sharing wonderful Thai food, a visit to the temple's holy place and social gathering among all the 46 participants that attended.

Report: Steinar Murud

Photo: Ole Toresen

