

MARCH 2008

UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE



Global Peace Festivals
UPF's Character Education:
From Canada to Kathmandu
Italian Youth Make Israeli
and Palestinian Friends

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION (UPF)

Why a Global Peace Festival?

This issue features reports about two Global Peace Festivals. The central theme of the Global Peace Festival (GPF) is “One family under God.” This simple idea is what we’re all about. It’s small enough to fit on a business card, a flag, a license plate, or over the door of a house of prayer for all people. And it’s big enough to bring the world together.

GPF is a new model of peace bringing together governments, NGOs, faith-based institutions, and men and women of all ages who seek harmony with one another and peace in the world. Our Festivals include many activities and programs, but most essentially they are about creating lasting partnerships in a peace network that embraces all humankind.

In 2007 GPF traveled from Korea to France, Germany, and England. It spread from Israel to Benin, Mali, and the Philippines. We found kindred spirits and an enthusiastic response everywhere. One thing is clear: “One family under God” touches a deep-rooted hunger in the human soul. Communities and nations are worn out by the brutality and aloofness that so often characterize relations among members of the human family.

“One Family under God” has profound implications for peace. It is the best and perhaps the only way to reach the Millennium Development Goals on time. If we consider those goals to be the responsibility only of the United Nations, or of governments or big business, they will never be achieved. Yet if we learn to treat each other as members of one family, it will not be so difficult. If it is our brother who is starving, or our sister who is sick in childbirth, we will take action.

This year, festivals are being planned worldwide. We warmly invite you to join us, not just to observe but to help make peace happen. Together, we can build one family under God.



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

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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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Cover photo:
Global Peace Festival in the
Philippines

GLOBAL PEACE FESTIVALS

A Grand Day in Manila

by Aya Goto, GPF Coordinator

On December 12, 2007, the Philippines hosted the Global Peace Festival grand celebration at the historic Quirino Grandstand in the capital city of Manila. The event culminated a multitude of activities and entertainment under the theme of “One world under God.”

Afternoon activities kicked off with a huge parade that included a marching band, national and local political and civic officials, religious leaders, educators, student organizations, and athletic teams.



Following the parade, people assembled at the grandstand for entertainment that included performances by the Armed Forces of the Philippines Band and the Polytechnic University of Banda Kawayan using native bamboo musical instruments. Winners of the “Peace Cheerleading Competition” performed stunts and dance routines on the theme of “One family under God,” followed by displays of traditional Philippine culture by the Rizalistas “Rigodon de Honor” dance troupe and the famed Ilo-ilo Dinagyang Festival Dance Group.

Ms. Pops Fernandez, known as the Philippines “Concert Queen,” entertained the crowd with a song and expressed her appreciation to the Global Peace Festival for promoting the theme of peace throughout the world.



Ms. Pops Fernandez, the “Concert Queen” of the Philippines

The main program began with prayers of peace led by representatives of the world’s religions expressing the belief that “We are brothers and sisters regardless of skin color, nationality, or religion; we are one family under one God.”

This was followed by the National Anthem played by

the Armed Forces of the Philippines Band.

Hon. Alfredo Lim, Mayor of Manila, gave the

welcoming address, followed by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives, who expressed the belief that “understanding among the great religions and the great civilizations has become the only basis for global peace that will endure.”



Hon. Alfredo Lim, Mayor of Manila

The next speaker was the festival chairperson, Philippine National Red Cross governor Leonida “Baby” Ortiz.

Following a rendition of the song “One World of Peace” by Ms. Fame Flores, a video portrayed the background of the Global Peace Festival.

Martin Luther King III, son of the famous civil rights activist and Nobel laureate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., encouraged everyone to “realize their dreams and goals,” adding that “those who lead with love leave a more lasting legacy.” The founder and CEO of Realizing the Dream, Inc., King quoted his father’s famous words: “Everybody can be



GLOBAL PEACE FESTIVALS



Martin Luther King III

great because everybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.”

Dr. Christopher B. H. Kim, Regional Chair of UPF-Asia, introduced the founder and keynote speaker of the Global

Peace Festival, Dr. Hyun Jin Moon. Dr. Moon stressed that world changes begin within ourselves. “We are here to celebrate a vision for peace,” he explained. “Not somebody else’s vision for peace but my vision and your vision for peace.”

“The dream of building one family under God is being planted in the hearts of those gathered here. Let this big dream be your dream. Usher in a new age of peace through true love power.”

— DR. HYUN JIN MOON



Dr. Hyun Jin Moon gets audience involved in expressing their dreams for peace.

“This is a vision for all of humanity,” he added. “It should be our dream since we have the same Divine Parent. Before we are Korean, Filipino, Japanese or whatever we call ourselves, we are first and foremost the sons and daughters of God and members of His eternal family.”

Dr. Moon called several notables onto the stage to voice their commitment to the dream of world peace: Dr. Primitivo Chua, president of UPF-Philippines; Bayani Fernando, president of the Metro Manila Development Authority; and world-champion boxer Manny Pacquiao.

Then Dr. Moon and his wife, Mrs. Jun Sook Moon, invited outstanding people working for peace in various fields of endeavor onto the stage to receive Ambassadors for Peace certificates. Recipients included Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Jr., Chief of the Armed Forces; Gen. Avelino Razon, Jr., Chief of the National Police; Manila Hotel Vice President Ricardo Yap; Manila Hotel President Hon. Joey Lina; actor and



GLOBAL PEACE FESTIVALS



Young Ambassadors for Peace in the Philippines played key roles in the Global Peace Festival.

Muslim youth leader Robin Padilla; and singers Jay-R and Fame Flores.

Bayani Fernando and his wife, Marikina City Mayor Hon. Marides Fernando, led the audience in the recitation of the “Pledge of one family under God.” In a deeply touching moment, peace candles were lit on stage while the festival’s theme song, “Where Peace Begins,” was sung by well-known Philippine singers Raki Vega and Mike Kilayco. Everyone in the audience had been given a candle in expectation of this moment. As the flames from one candle lit another and yet another, the light spread throughout the crowd.

Dr. Samuel Salvador, president of the Philippine

Teachers’ Association for the Research of Principles, led a victory cheer, followed by a spectacular fireworks display above the Manila skyline. The evening closed with more musical performances, martial arts demonstrations, and dancing.

With a crowd reported to be 200,000, the event was described by The Manila Bulletin as “one of the largest peace festivals in the world.” The Global Peace Festival aims to achieve a culture of peace and reconciliation among people of all nations, races, religions, and beliefs through coming together as one global family while promoting the universal principle of living for the sake of others.

H.E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Philippines, greets Dr. and Mrs. Hyun Jin Moon and Martin Luther King III.



GLOBAL PEACE FESTIVALS

Global Peace Festival in Benin

By Paterne Sosie Lin Zinsou
UPF-West Africa 1

The Global Peace Festival in Benin took place October 26-29, 2007, in Ouidah, the historic slave-trade port, and Cotonou, Benin's economic capital and main city. During each activity, the international delegates, Archbishop George Augustus Stallings, Jr., and Mr. Jin Man Kwak, were joined by representatives from nearby nations of Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, and Ghana.



The Mayor of Ouidah, Pierre Badet (left), with delegates from the US, Archbishop George Stallings, Jr., and Mr. Jin Man Kwak, speaking to the press.

In the spirit of service, 300 participants from different countries offered their labor of sweat and hard work in a community service project at the Ganve Public Primary School in Ouidah. Wearing Global Peace Festival T-shirts, they weeded and cleaned the school grounds. The mayor offered words of welcome.

Next, approximately 400 persons gathered for a peace march on the theme of "Forgiveness and



A girls' soccer team at the Global Peace Festival

Reconciliation for a Prosperous Nation." The march started from the grimly-named arch "Porte de Non Retour" (Door of No Return), and traced the historic route where the captives who were sold into slavery were taken to the ships.

Four women's soccer teams participated in a tournament promoting peace. This was in keeping with UPF's focus on advancing the UN's Millennium Development Goals, one of which is to increase the range of opportunities for women.

At the Palais des Congrès in Cotonou, more than 1,000 distinguished guests gathered for the Ambassadors for Peace awards ceremony. The following day, at a student rally at the University of Abomey-Calavi, the organizers discussed plans for a major festival in 2008.

Finally, the delegation met with the Benin Minister of Foreign Affairs to offer a report to the head of state, H.E. Dr. Thomas Boni Yayi and First Lady Chantal Boni.



H.E. Okanla Moussa, Minister of Foreign Affairs, reviews information about the Global Peace Festival

Awards Ceremony at the Palais des Congrès



THE GOLDEN RULE AS A GLOBAL ETHIC

Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr.

Speaker, House of Representatives, The Philippines

We have gathered here because we share a universal longing for peace. Peace on Earth is our greatest need, but it is also our most elusive collective goal. Goodwill among men remains sadly lacking in the world of our time.



Jose de Venecia

We in East Asia are comparatively lucky, compared to many parts of Africa, Southern Europe, and West Asia, where genocidal wars are set off by quarrels over ethnicity, religion, language, and raw material resources. However, Muslims and Buddhists are killing each other in Southern Thailand, and Christians and Muslims have been fighting in Eastern Indonesia, while soldiers brutalize Theravada monks marching against the military rulers of Burma.

Here in our own country, we have a separatist Muslim movement in portions of Mindanao and Sulu, and the terrorist Abu Sayyaf on Basilan Island.

In this situation, what are we to do? We must bring to bear on our problems the moral influence of the great religions, for there can be no peace among the nations without peace among the religions.

Understanding among the great religions and the great civilizations has become the only basis for global peace that will endure. Thus, we are called on to stimulate interfaith dialogue between the great religions. To this purpose, we must mobilize churches, temples, synagogues, and mosques—Buddhists, Confucianists, Hindus, and Jews no less than Christians and Muslims—to strengthen the forces of moderation in every society and to isolate the extremists who advocate violence and terror.

But on what principle is dialogue among the faiths to take place? There can be no dialogue between the great religions without their agreement on moral values—one ethical standard that all the faith and belief systems can share above and beyond their surface differences in dogmas, symbols, and rituals.

The Catholic philosopher and theologian Hans Kung suggests that humankind can discover this core global ethic in the simple but profound principle: “Treat others as you would like to be treated.”

This “Golden Rule” could become the common ethical denominator for all the belief systems on Earth, because all the belief systems subscribe to it,

in strikingly similar forms. For instance:

- Buddhists express this rule thus: “Treat all creatures as you would like to be treated.”
- Confucianists teach: “What you do not wish done to yourself, do not do to others.”
- Muslims say: “No one of you is a believer until you desire for your neighbor that which you desire for yourself.”
- Jews say: “What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor, that is the basic law.”
- Hindus agree: “This is the essence of morality: Do not do to others which if done to you would cause you pain.”

As the mother of ethics for the whole of humankind, this Golden Rule could, therefore, become the core of initial agreement around which interfaith dialogue in our time could build a thousand years of peace.

The urgency of interfaith dialogue is something none of us can deny. From the threat of HIV/AIDS to the melting of the polar icecaps, from nuclear proliferation to environmental degradation, from income inequality to hunger in the midst of plenty—we are confronted with problems that we must deal with together.

Because the social, ecological, and moral problems we face are global in their implications, we must also “globalize” our moral values and ethical standards.

Accepting the Golden Rule as the global ethic will ensure that all our nations and all our faiths embrace pluralism in culture and in society. It will focus our hearts and minds in our common involvement in mankind. Accepting the global ethic will impress on us the poetic truth that “No man is an island, but a part of the mainland.”

Rev. Moon teaches that our present age of materialism may soon yield to an age of spirituality, to a new universal culture of unselfish service to others, to a new universal culture of God-centered families.

Because we Filipinos regard Christmas as the season for celebrating family ties, we are in harmony with new age of spirituality that the Rev. Moon foresees. May peace in our homes and in our hearts radiate throughout the world.

NOTE: Excerpts from remarks delivered at the Global Peace Festival in Manila, Philippines, December 12, 2007.

We must mobilize churches, temples, synagogues, and mosques to strengthen the forces of moderation in every society and to isolate the extremists who advocate violence and terror.

NEW LEVEL OF COOPERATION IN NEPAL

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

Cooperation between civil society and the government of Nepal broke new ground as the first-ever function organized by a non-government organization was held in the Parliament Secretariat Hall of the Singhadurbar government office building.

Mr. Ek Nath Dhakal, President of UPF-Nepal, emceed the January 16, 2008 “Parliamentarians for Peace” program, and began by thanking the EX-MPs Club which partnered with UPF to hold the conference.

During regular Parliament sessions, the House of Representatives in Nepal is officially chaired by both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Both the Speaker, Hon. Subas Chandra Nembang, and the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Chitralekha Yadav, were in attendance. There were also more than 120 Members of Parliament among the 200 participants.

The Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Hon. Girija P. Koirala, thanked UPF founder, Dr. Sun Myung

Moon of Korea, in a written message for his “stupendous work” in Nepal over the last several years. “Our people have benefited from national and international conferences that foster dialogue at the highest levels of government,” he said.

UPF-Nepal has held six South Asia Peace Initiative Conferences that have brought together Monarchists, Maoists, and members of the Seven-Party Alliance to dialogue on issues and modalities of Nepal’s on-going peace process. Elections are scheduled for April 10.

The Speaker of Parliament reminded everyone that the new government must be inclusive and its role was to deliver “reliable, down-to-earth services to the people.” The Deputy Speaker noted that the peace process really began moving forward when Dr. Moon came to Nepal in November 2005 on a World Peace Tour of 120 nations.

The Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, the Hon. Narendra Bikram Nembang, said that the model of good governance was uncomplicated. “Take the values of the family,” he said, “and imprint them on society.”

Dr. Christopher B. H. Kim, Chairman of UPF-Asia and one of twelve international guests, explained that UPF’s model of good leadership was very practical since it applied to everyone—not just political leaders. “Each and every person is a leader in some way,” he said, “so the ideas of public-above-private and mind-above-body apply to everyone.” By living more for others than for ourselves, priorities within us as well as in social relations are aligned correctly. Then, and only then, can peace and harmony be realized.

Conference participants
in front of the Nepal
Parliament.



Photographs by Arjun Gaudel

The president of the Ex-MPs Club and former Education Minister, Mr. Ram Hari Joshy, called the conference a dream come true. Nepal, he noted, was passing through a stage of peace, but to achieve lasting peace the root problems, which he identified as greed, selfishness, lust, and hatred, had to be addressed.

Following the session in the parliament, an International Leadership Conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Kathmandu January 17 and 18 on the theme, "Toward a New Paradigm of Leadership and Good Governance for Peace in the 21st Century."

After Nepal's Foreign Minister, Hon. Sahana Pradhan, inaugurated the conference, Dr. Julia Kim, Co-Chair of UPF-Asia, delivered the keynote speech outlining Dr. Moon's undaunting efforts to achieve world peace. She said that Dr. Moon established the Universal Peace Federation in 2005 to provide the UN with much-needed moral and spiritual values.

Former Indian Ambassador to Nepal K.V. Rajan said that good governance was not limited to political leaders; it applied to all levels of government as well as civil society. He went on to say that the goal of UPF is a world without boundaries where human-kind becomes one global, spiritual family.

The conference gathered top-level government

leaders, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Home Affairs, Deputy Speaker of the House, a former Prime Minister, two former Speakers of the House, twenty-nine Members of Parliament, the Chairman of the Nepal Bar Association, two army generals, one former Chief of Police, an Inspector General of Police, three university presidents, one former ambassador, and international diplomats from India and Taiwan.

Equally impressive was the grassroots foundation at the ILC program. Among the 209 delegates attending the conference on leadership and good governance, there were representatives from all 75 districts of Nepal. Many delegates from outside the Kathmandu Valley expressed a desire to welcome such a program in their district.

Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, Secretary-General of UPF International, closed the program by declaring: "Nepal is a superpower." He explained that this was not in terms of military might, economic strength, or intellectual authority. Noting the warm reception UPF has always received here, he continued, "Nepal has something better and more important than all of these. Nepal is a superpower of peace and a superpower of moral character."

Nepal is transitioning into a full-blown democracy, opening the way for a left-wing party to join mainstream politics and working to create a federal government and an inclusive political structure.

— K.V. RAJAN

STATEMENT BY HON. SAHANA PRADHAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NEPAL



As I understand it, democracy and good governance are synonymous. Democracy is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. It is about effective delivery of services to the people, and it is also about accountability of the executive arm of the state to the people's representatives—the Members of Parliament. It is about accepting the

people as a sovereign source of power. Governance can be classified as bad and good. Good governance is about using state power and resources in a justifiable and accountable manner. Rule of law, accountability, transparency, and people's participation in a meaningful sense are some of the requisites of good governance.

Democracy in the true sense provides space for everybody's voice. Democracy helps promote a peaceful and harmonious society. It helps peacebuilding and thereby family-building. Just as the individual is the basic unit of a family, the family is the basic unit of society. A peaceful society is possible only when individuals and families are bonded in peace, love, and compassion. Leaders

should look at their constituency as part of a larger or extended family.

The arrival of peace depends on us, since human responsibility has determined the course and outcome of human history so far. Therefore, there is an urgent need for peacemakers to create more understanding and unity among people.

Nepal is preparing for Constituent Assembly elections in April. I am happy to say that the interim constitution of Nepal has incorporated the basic features of good governance, such as multi-party inclusive democracy, human rights, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, an independent judiciary, and an emphasis on the rule of law. We have come a long way, but much still needs to be done.

The cooperation and assistance of organizations such as the Universal Peace Federation and the Ex-MPs Club will no doubt support us in attaining lasting peace. UPF's Founder, Father Moon, has developed a universal philosophy that has the power and depth to unite people from all walks of life. I believe that this International Leadership Conference will help us promote lasting peace and good governance.

TOWARD GOOD GOVERNANCE IN SIERRA LEONE

John D.S. Samura, Secretary General, UPF-Sierra Leone

*This is the first time
I attended a seminar
that pointed out the
real concept of conflict
in human history.*

— HON. BINTU MYERS

A Seminar on Good Governance and Leadership was recently held for the benefit of Members of Parliament in the West African nation of Sierra Leone. It took place in Committee Room One of the Parliament Building in Freetown, December 3-4, 2007.

Most of the members of Parliament are new and young. “With this kind of education, we can surely transform our attitudes as well as the attitudes of our people,” said Hon. Ibrahim Bundu from Port Loko.

“The concept of peace in Sierra Leone is timely, since we just emerged from elections that were full of claims and counterclaims of violence,” stated Hon. Sahr N. Fasuluku from Kono.

UPF Regional Chair Eiji Tokuno and West Africa Director Adama Doumbia supported local organizers planning the event. With the help of the Chief Whip in Parliament, Hon. Ibrahim Bundu, supported by the Majority Leader, Hon. Eddie Turay, UPF hosted 94 Parliamentarians on the first day of the seminar.

The Opening Ceremony began with invocations by Sheikh Lama Jalloh and Rev. Alfred P.M. Sondufu, leading Ambassadors for Peace in Sierra Leone. Speeches were delivered by Hon. Eddie

Turay, Ms. Alice M. Kamara, Mrs. Maude Peacock, and the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Justice Abel N.B. Stronge.

They communicated to their colleagues who could not attend the main points of the presentations by Rev. Doumbia and Ambassador Gerald Coleman, Secretary General of UPF-Liberia. They found the unique information on topics such as God’s Original Ideal of Peace, Understanding the Root Causes of Conflict, and Principles of Restoration very timely.

Having experienced a decade of civil war that ended in 2002, participants expressed special appreciation for the presentations about the origins of conflict. Hon. Sheku G. Dumbuya from Kambia said, “I learned during the seminar that peace comes only through understanding the root causes of conflict and how to resolve this conflict through the principles of reconciliation.” During the war, an estimated 200,000 people were killed, 2 million displaced in neighboring countries, and thousands of people had their arms or legs hacked off by rebels.

“This is the first time I attended a seminar that pointed out the real concept of conflict in human history,” said Hon. Bintu Myers from Kenema. Hon.





UPF-Africa Chair Eiji Tokuno speaks at the Opening Ceremony.

Abu Konteh from Koinadugu stated, “This seminar pointed out the origin of problems by explaining the root causes of human suffering. This clearly reminds us about the mistakes of our forefathers in human history.”

On the second day, 101 members of Parliament listened as Mr. Tokuno elaborated on the core values and founding vision of UPF and its activities in 48 African nations. “Practically, it was full of hope for mankind and guidance for our lives and for future generations, especially on the issue of fidelity in marriage,” stated Hon. Sallieu Conteh from Pujehun. “The seminar reminded us about our limitations towards our family, society, and nation.”

A Paramount Chief from Bombali, Hon. Bai Sebor Kasangba II, said, “The seminar was educational and admirable especially for the new Parliamentarians who are looking forward to bringing positive change for our people. I feel proud to have received such an inspiring message of peace.”

The Hon. Minkailu Mansaray, Minister of Labor, spoke at the closing ceremony. The response was overwhelming. Many participants asked for more seminars in the future. For example, Hon. Mohamed Sufian Kargbo from Tonkolili said, “I look forward to future seminars for the benefit of not only Parliamentarians but even cabinet ministers.”

“UPF came at a time when Sierra Leone needs a new approach to leadership,” said Hon. Veronica K. Sesay from Moyamba. “There are a lot of hidden things that we came to understand about the concept

of good governance and leadership, especially the root causes of conflict from God’s viewpoint.”

Hon. Victoria Saidu-Kamara from Freetown stated, “As a Member of Parliament for my constituency and Sierra Leone as a whole, I would like to thank the organizers for their timely interventions that clearly remind us that we are one family under God. I was in the United States and I knew about Dr. Moon for many years, but I never understood his vision. Through this seminar I clearly understand that he is a man of peace.”

UPF-Sierra Leone plans to set up an office near the Parliament Building and create a Parliamentarians for Peace Committee.

NOTE: H.E. Ernest Bai Koroma, who took office after the September 2007 elections, has promised to fight corruption, reform the justice system, promote youth employment, and develop the country’s power resources, agriculture, and tourism. The government, citizens, religious groups, and international agencies are working together to rebuild the nation.

Regional stability is a priority, and leaders of neighboring Liberia have publicly expressed regret for their country’s involvement in Sierra Leone’s civil war. The UN Peacebuilding Commission that was established in 2005 has been active in Sierra Leone. For more information, see the New World Encyclopedia essay on Sierra Leone: http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Sierra_Leone.

With this kind of education, we can surely transform our attitudes as well as the attitudes of our people.

— HON. IBRAHIM BUNDU

UN REFORM A MUST, SAYS FORMER UN OFFICIAL

Hiroshi Yamazaki, UPI Correspondent, Tokyo, Japan

UN peacekeepers are now called upon to perform military, humanitarian, emergency, and nation-building activities.

“We need to reform the Security Council of the United Nations to reflect the reality of the world today,” said Dr. Sukehiro Hasegawa, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Timor-Leste at a November 2007 forum involving diplomats, politicians, and peace activists in Tokyo.

Hasegawa served in the UN system for 37 years, including engagements in the violent and confusing fields of Somalia, Rwanda, and Timor-Leste. Thus, he is one of the few Japanese well qualified to talk about the merits and weaknesses of the international body from his own personal experience.

On a number of occasions he found himself in the middle of a conflict, with tragedy unfolding in front of his own eyes. Among the events that still torment him were the killings in Rwanda in 1994, in which the United Nations estimates that hundreds of thousands of civilians lost their lives, including many women and children. A Rwandan diplomat at the forum called it “a complete failure of the UN operation.”

Hasegawa recalled the reality in the field, explaining that the Security Council is very much in charge of field operations in times of crisis. “You just cannot get necessary authorization from the Security Council in a timely manner” to deal with changing situations, he said.

This is because, as he put it, “The Security Council reflects the views of very divergent groups

of this planet.” Thus, in order to make UN peace operations more effective, he urged the dozens of diplomats present at the forum, including several ambassadors to Japan, to press ahead with reform of the United Nations in general and the Security Council in particular.

The United Nations is now engaged in 17 peacekeeping operations around the world, mostly in Africa and the Middle East, including the recently sanctioned mission in Darfur, Sudan. Some 67,000 personnel from 103 countries are mobilized under the UN mandate.

According to Hasegawa, who now teaches at a couple of colleges including the UN University based in Tokyo, the United Nations’ role in the peacemaking process has evolved significantly, especially since the end of the Cold War.

From a mere disengagement force as in the Korean peninsula, UN peacekeepers are now called upon to perform military, humanitarian, emergency, and nation-building activities, sometimes virtually taking over the sovereign rights of the countries in which they operate.

Reflecting upon the bitter experience of clashes and turmoil in 2006 in Timor-Leste after the Security Council decided to reduce the peacekeeping force stationed there, Hasegawa cautioned against the “premature withdrawal of security forces” from areas emerging from conflicts. In fact, he explained, “Police force training is now one of the main keys of UN peacebuilding activities.”

Since Japan was admitted to the United Nations in 1956, its diplomacy has been faithfully UN-centered, and it has been the second largest contributor of funds to the international body. Despite this, the Japanese government has failed to muster international support for its initiatives on UN reform, including its own permanent seat on the Security Council.

Source: UPI Asia Online, <http://www.upiasiaonline.com>



PROMOTING COOPERATION AMONG RELIGIONS

By Sardar Muhammad Tahir Tabassum, Director, Institute of Peace and Development
Brussels, Belgium

An International Conference on Interfaith Dialogue towards Global Peace at the Peace Embassy in Brussels, Belgium, unanimously passed a resolution entitled “Brussels Peace Declaration on Religious Coexistence” on December 1, 2007.

Participants discussed the importance of interfaith harmony and conflict resolution to combat extremism, intolerance, hatred, and violence in the name of religion.

The conference was organized by the Universal Peace Federation-Belgium and the Institute of Peace and Development (INSPAD), a European think tank. Both organizations affirmed that they will work together to promote and preserve peace, justice, human rights, equality, genuine brotherhood, and tolerance. Cultivating friendly interactions among people of diverse cultures and religions will help create an environment conducive to building peace and harmony among communities and peoples.

A prominent Pakistani intellectual, Major General (retired) Muhammad Tahir, Director of Welfare Education for the Fauji Foundation of Pakistan, was the keynote speaker and received the Institute of Peace and Development’s Peace Award 2007 and a UPF appointment as an Ambassador for Peace.

He described the basic principles and moral values that govern Islamic nations’ dealings with other nations and said that all religions promote a message of peace, harmony, love, and compassion. Since justice is the inalienable right of all people, he believes that oppressing other people is forbidden, irrespective of their religion, color, or ethnicity.

General Tahir envisions the emergence of a world culture wherein the histories and traditions of diverse cultures and civilizations are respected and accepted. He hopes that enmity and oppression will give way to respect and tolerance as people recognize that everyone has the basic right to live peacefully

and enjoy their own cultural tradition or religion.

Representing the host organizations, Mr. Amin ul Haq, President of the Institute of Peace and Development, affirmed that organization’s commitment to oppose terrorism and extremism in all its manifestations and the use of religious symbols and ethnic values to generate conflicts, feed wars, or justify terrorism. Mr. Philippe Jacques, Secretary General of the Universal Peace Federation-Belgium, spoke of UPF’s work to promote understanding and tolerance among people of all religions based on its understanding that humankind is one family under God.

Other conference presenters gave examples of interreligious initiatives, including the newly-established European Platform for Jewish Muslim Co-operation, facilitated by CEJI, an organization promoting a Jewish contribution to an inclusive Europe. From Holland, Ingmar Jurgen Metthezing, a Buddhist monk, described the power of meditation techniques to bring positive and peaceful thoughts. Joginder Singh of the Sikh Gurdwara Vilvord in Brussels talked about how their traditions can contribute to peaceful coexistence among diverse people in Europe.

The Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Louise Arbour, congratulated the NGOs for taking the initiative to organize the event. The Director of Human Rights Without Frontiers International, Mr. Willy Fautre, expressed appreciation for efforts to promote tolerance and respect among various faiths around the world.

Looking to the future, conferees decided to establish a Permanent Committee for Interfaith Cooperation, comprised of religious scholars and representatives of different faiths and communities, NGOs and the media.

Enmity and oppression will give way to respect and tolerance as people recognize that everyone has the basic right to live peacefully and enjoy their own cultural tradition or religion.

A SPIRITUAL PARADIGM SHIFT

By Shrivatsa Goswami, Acharya, Sri Radharamana Mandir
Vrindavan, India

Visionary leaders are capable of not only analyzing the past but also grasping the possibilities hidden in the womb of the future and applying them to their own time.

*Namostevanantaya sahasramurtaye,
Sahasrapadaksa sirorubahave
Sahasranamne purusayasavate,
Sahasrakotiyugadharine namah*

*“O Divine Couple with infinite name and forms!
To bless us you have innumerable feats of existence,
hands of grace, eyes of vision, minds full of ideals.
O eternal being! we bow down to you!”*

Dear Sisters and Brothers!

There is not much dispute to the fact that there is a global crisis. There are many reasons for that. Primarily a crisis arises when we lack resources to deal with a situation. Generally speaking it is true. But why the lack? And what is that lack?

The resources probably are not in short supply. What we are lacking is the capability of recognizing them. Humanity has always been fortunate to have resource persons—leaders like Krishna, Buddha, Zarathustra, Moses, Jesus, and the Prophet Mohammed, may peace be upon them. They all were able to understand the mistakes of the past and identify the problems of the present.

The good times and the bad times for humanity depend upon the success and failure of its leadership. Water shall always flow downwards—whatever the shade of religious, social, economic, and political systems and ideologies. Leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., were capable of not only analyzing the past but also grasping the possibilities hidden in the womb of the future and applying them

to their own time. Whenever there has been a paradigm shift, it has always been futuristic.

Rev. Sun Myung Moon is one such leader available to our time. He is much ahead of time yet very much in his time. His vision of the “Abel UN” is the logical outcome of his lifelong commitment to dialogue, which is not confined to inter-faith or intra-faith but always includes a willingness to talk to scientists, politicians, artists, and the business community.

The UN has been and still is a useful institution, in spite of being incapable of delivering what it *was* to deliver. This inability of the UN has a definite reason. The UN has always felt shy about shaking hands with the most powerful human institution, i.e., religion, which is at the top of the power pyramid in human affairs. Time and again we have seen the united military and political power of the G-8 countries helpless against decrees issued in the name of religion. In the past and not so distant past, the arrogance born out of ignorance by leaders who did not make an alliance with religious forces and institutions has been mostly detrimental to peace and prosperity.

Rev. Moon has seen humans suffer in this estrangement between the spiritual and social-political-economic processes. Thus challenged, he moved with conviction to re-marry them through the “Abel UN.” Rev. Moon has remarkable ideas and projects to demolish the dividing walls and build bridges. The “Abel UN” is a vision of a larger proportion than even the Bering Strait project.

How can an “Abel UN” serve humanity? I share a news item from my country, India, which went unreported in the media. Varanasi (Benares) is one of the most holy Hindu cities. A couple of years ago, the



sanctity of its most popular temple was violated with a mindless bombing. Hundreds of pious innocent children, women, and men lost their lives. The head of the Hindu temple immediately appealed to his people to remain peaceful, pardon the culprits, and not retaliate violently.

This voice, sane and coming from the heart, was heard by the people; one of them was the Muslim head of Varanasi. He came to the temple and asked the priests to reopen the temple while the dead and the wounded were still being cared for. He attended the lamp ritual, received the grace, and immediately decreed in public that Islam does not support such a sacrilege and that those who committed this crime, even in the name of Islam, were not Muslims and should be prosecuted under the law of the land. As a result, there was no bloodshed and no loss of business.

When the spirit of dialogue enabled the Hindu mahant and Muslim mufti to talk with their mind and heart together and act responsibly, humanity was the winner. So were the Hindus and Muslims. The losers, ignorant criminals, struck again upon Varanasi just a couple of months back. Again, realizing the benefits of this truly religious approach, Varanasi did not lose its peace and consequently its prosperity.

Similarly, interfaith leadership at an “Abel UN” or interreligious council at the UN can do a great service. Varanasi is a living example of thinking globally and acting locally.

Rev. Moon has wonderfully used this paradigm. Hindus speak of *basudhaiva kutumbakam*—the whole earth is one family. This faith in the family system is based upon spiritual virtues and values. If a family is to thrive, then love, service, sharing, and so on are the key guiding words. Rev. Moon has lived this paradigm.

Whenever there has been a paradigm shift, the movers and shakers moved their own right foot ahead, and the rest followed. What is the paradigm for such leaders? Caitanya Mahaprabhu (1486-1533) was convinced that “humility like a blade of grass, forbearance/forgiveness like a tree, no desire for honors, while always respecting the others are the characteristics of those who can serve humanity.” This paradigm is apparently too simplistic, yet it is very, very difficult to translate it in practice. Rev. Moon practices it.

The Universal Peace Federation, Rev. Moon’s extended family, can and should act to empower humanity and its institutions. In the past, we have repeatedly made the mistake of not listening to such visionaries; they were mostly rejected. But history proved otherwise. Our ignorance and arrogance

could not stand the test of time. They, the so-called rejects, created history. At this juncture, can we afford to miss Rev. Moon’s bus? No. This bus has not only a very capable driver but an able co-driver as well.

NOTE: Vrindavan is a town in north-central India on the site of an ancient forest where Hindus believe that Lord Krishna spent his boyhood. Shrivatsa Goswami is a religious teacher at a temple devoted to Krishna’s consort, the goddess Radha. He refers to an explosion in Varanasi on March 7, 2006, that hit the Sankat Mochan Hanuman Temple, one of the most highly-revered Hindu temples in this holy city on the Ganges River. Its manager, Veer Bhadra Mishra, and the Mufti Maulana Abdul Batin worked together to prevent retaliation and further violence between the religious groups.

RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS ABOUT RECONCILIATION

Let us have concord with our own people,
and concord with people who are strangers to us;
The Divine Twins create between us and the strangers a unity of hearts.

May we unite in our minds, unite in our purposes,
and not fight against the divine spirit within us,
nor the arrows of the War-god fall with the break of day.

— ATHARVA VEDA 7.52.1-2 (HINDUISM)

Better and more rewarding is God’s reward to those who believe and put their trust in Him: who avoid gross sins and indecencies and, when angered, are willing to forgive... Let evil be rewarded by like evil, but he who forgives and seeks reconciliation shall be rewarded by God... True constancy lies in forgiveness and patient forbearance.

— QUR’AN 42.36-42 (ISLAM)

If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

— MATTHEW 5.23-24 (CHRISTIANITY)

Our Father, it is thy universe, it is thy will:
Let us be at peace, let the souls of the people be cool.
Thou art our Father, remove all evil from our path.

— NUER PRAYER (AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS)

FROM CANADA TO KATHMANDU: WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN UPF'S CHARACTER EDUCATION INITIATIVE AND "DISCOVERING THE REAL ME"

By June Saunders, Author and Researcher

A discussion group at the teacher training workshop in Australia.

Talking about character education builds trust among diverse peoples. As many representatives from around the world have testified, when people from traditional societies look at the United States they admire its freedoms but fear that those freedoms are heading too far down the road toward license. When people affirm the traditional values of honesty, loyalty, family unity, purity before marriage and fidelity afterward, justice, and fair-

ness, people all over the world respond. After all, these are universally admired and aspired-to virtues that everyone benefits from. Whether you are from Kansas or Kathmandu, you want the merchant you are dealing with to be honest, you want the corner policeman to be just, and you want your marital partner to be faithful. Character education owes its appeal to the universality of human yearnings for the good, the true, and the beautiful, and because it addresses these things, it bridges cultural gaps.

Canada

Mr. David Stewart and Mr. Alan Saunders conducted an educators' training workshop at the World Education College in Hamilton, Canada, on November 12. Participants from the World Association of NGOs (WANGO) conference attended the training workshop, along with local educators. A broad representation of individuals, including Play Soccer Make Peace coordinators, UPF delegates from Sri Lanka, and representatives from the Muslim community in Toronto, Canada, also attended the training.

During the workshop, new PowerPoint presentations were given using sample chapters from the *Discovering the Real Me* curriculum. Skits, dramas, and competitions were



among the activities, as well as ample group discussion time. This interactive format seemed to give workshop participants a sense of ownership of the material and heightened their enthusiasm.

Participants expressed interest in implementing the program in places as diverse as Spain, Kenya, Sri Lanka, and various parts of Canada. Mr. David Stewart will begin giving presentations to local educators, parents, and soccer coaches in Canada to keep the momentum going.

Australia

From November 24 to 26, there was a three-day Educators' Training Workshop in Sydney, Australia. The inclusion of a former UNESCO official from Myanmar, a medical doctor from Bangladesh, and experienced high school teachers from the region helped spark a sense of ownership. The *Discovering the Real Me* curriculum serves as a template which can be adapted by other cultures using their own myths, legends, heroes, folktales, fables, and fairy tales. Educators from Tahiti, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and volunteers who have worked in Cameroon and the Caribbean attended the workshop. The participation of the Oceania Leadership Training Team members added a bright young spirit to the workshop, along with a couple of college youth from Sydney.

Following brief lectures on the purpose and content of the curriculum, educators split into groups and reviewed a chapter from the character education curriculum. Reports were given back to the plenary session, looking at strengths, limitations of a particular grade level and chapter, and suggestions for culturally specific ways to make the curriculum more relevant to the particular ethnic or racial group the representatives hope to reach.

Dr. Chung-Sik Yong, Enrique Ledesma, and Rick McInherney are planning ways to expand the curriculum in the Pacific islands.

Nepal

Approximately 120 people attended the two-day Educators Training Workshop held December 2-3 at the Peace Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal. The workshop was co-sponsored by Nepal's Ministry of Education, Sports and Curriculum Development and by UPF-Nepal. Many dignitaries attended, including Dr. G.M. Gurung, Minister of Human Resource Development and Cultural Heritage, from the Government of the state of Sikkim, India, who is interested in developing the initiative in his region.

Dr. Robert Kittel and Dr. Kishor gave presen-

tations and facilitated group sessions during the workshop, working tirelessly to answer many challenging questions. Experienced educators at the workshop included the Director of Curriculum Development for the Government of Nepal.

A one-day layover in Hong Kong on the way back to the United States yielded a meeting with a teacher from one of the most prestigious schools in Hong Kong. He is planning to pilot the character education curriculum in his school.

Educators, parents, and community leaders all over the world are wondering how to deal with the sometimes pernicious influence of Western media and culture on their traditional values. Nepalese and Indians were especially grateful that the UPF character education initiative allows for a focus on key elements of traditional values while incorporating stories from local cultures and addressing the issues modern youth face.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Community-Based Programs: UPF is helping churches and community organizations in the US implement *Discovering the Real Me*. The curriculum is non-sectarian, so it can be adapted to any religious or secular environment.

Internship Programs: New countries hosting character education trainers and peer educators this summer include Zambia, Uganda, Nepal, India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. People interested in hosting a program in other countries may contact Mrs. Sally Sayre at interns@upf.org.

Ambassadors for Peace Abroad: To provide field-based training for Ambassadors for Peace and other community leaders, UPF will match Ambassadors for Peace and peer educators to serve internationally. For more information, contact Rob Sayre at rsayre5615@hotmail.com.

Discovering the Real Me is a comprehensive curriculum that provides both student texts and teacher manuals from elementary level through high school. The story-based format and age-appropriate writing make the texts accessible and practical. The series can be ordered individually, as a set, or in any combination from <https://upf.org/bookstore/ce/index.php>.

ITALIAN YOUTH MAKE ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN FRIENDS

By Hod Ben Zvi, Secretary General, UPF-Israel

*Look into the face of
your neighbors and
imagine that you
are looking into the
face of God.*

– DR. SHUKI BEN-AMI

Twenty young Italians ages 16 to 24 spent a week in Israel and Palestinian Territories learning to know the young people there and getting involved in community service activities. Mr. Giorgio Gasperoni, Secretary General of UPF-San Marino, led the group of high school and university students and recent graduates from ten cities in Italy.

“Israel is very close to the hearts of Italians and to our history,” said his daughter Daniela, a university student who organizes service projects for young people. “This trip brought me much closer to the historical places where Jesus grew up but also to the people who are living there today.”

From December 27, 2007 to January 3, 2008, the young people did community volunteer work, met with local Jewish and Arab youth, and toured the country. They were welcomed by both Palestinians and Israelis, and many friendships developed. This

exchange of Italian youths with Israeli and Palestinian youths is part of an ongoing interfaith exchange and service partnership which the international office of the Youth Federation for World Peace (YFWP) plans to develop with YFWP-Israel in 2008.

In consultation with senior Ambassadors for Peace, young Israelis and Palestinians organized an informative program that would give their Italian visitors as much time as possible to engage with local people of various communities. Meetings were held with all the major faith groups, giving the Italians opportunities to understand the diverse society in Holy Land.

The participants were welcomed to Jerusalem by Hod Ben Zvi, Secretary General of UPF-Israel, and Dr. Muli Peleg, a professor of political science at Tel Aviv University and co-chair OneVoice, an organization of young Israelis and Palestinians working for peace. Dr. Peleg gave an introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and explained his organization’s work to resolve conflict. A few “icebreaker” games with local youth led to laughter and helped the young people feel comfortable with each other.

Prof. Eliezer Glaubach, former Jerusalem City Councilman, led a tour of the Old City of Jerusalem that included the Via Dolorosa and in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, revered by Christians; the tour culminated at the Western Wall, the most holy site accessible to Jews for prayer. Visiting Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial, offered the Italians insight into a painful part of Jewish history. The Italians also met city officials and religious leaders in various communities.

The itinerary included visits to holy sites and refugee camps in Bethlehem and East Jerusalem. The Italians rode a boat on the Sea of Galilee and saw historic sites in Tiberias and Nazareth. Tours of Jaffa and Tel Aviv gave the young people expe-

Discussion circles with
Israeli students



riences of modern metropolitan Israel, in contrast to the traditional religious atmosphere typical of Jerusalem.

What made the week unforgettable were the many opportunities to do projects with local people, play with children, and discuss common concerns with other youth. Each encounter had a unique flavor.

At the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, they met leaders of the Student Union and volunteer groups. In discussion groups they shared freely with one another, with the Italians asking about Israeli student life and the Israelis asking the Italians what they thought about the separation wall. They also met with two women serving in the Israeli army. The Italians asked them many questions about their lives as soldiers and their concerns for Israel, and the soldiers asked the Italians about their concerns for their own country.

The Italians helped a Jewish scout group, Mashatzim, clear an area of trash in a forest where Jewish settlers used to live. Together, they joked while they picked up items such as old picture frames and inflatable swimming pools.

At a community center for Ethiopian Jewish immigrants in the southern city of Beer Sheva, one group painted an electrical box in a poor neighborhood, decorating it with lots of color and the word “peace.” The local people were disappointed that the young people could not decorate the entire neighborhood. The second group planted trees in the yard of the community center and cleaned the area. Afterwards, they played with children at a kindergarten.

In the central Israeli town of Petach Tikva, the Italians met with 25 youth in a leadership program for community volunteering. The Italians listened with interest to their explanations about their volunteer programs, and the Israeli youth were inspired to hear about the Global Peace Festival.

The Italians met both Christian and Muslim Arabs living in Israel. They met with Christian Arab youth in Nazareth, who shared their visions for life and what they want to accomplish. The Italians asked a lot of questions about their political points of view. In the end both groups felt so close that none of them wanted to part. Arab-Israeli Muslim students from Haifa University described their frustrations with the conflict and the walls dividing Israeli and Palestinian territories. After an Arab-style meal and a performance by Arab dancers, the Italians joined in the traditional dancing.

There were also opportunities to meet Palestinians. At the only community center in the Old City of Jerusalem, they played with children



Planting trees in Beer Sheva

who were hesitant to respond at first but in the end did not want to part from their new Italian friends. At the Shoafat refugee camp in East Jerusalem, the Italians visited a girls’ high school and asked many questions about the Muslim culture and dress code. Some of the girls accompanied the Italians on their visit to NGOs in Ramallah in the West Bank, so they could continue their conversations. The Secretary General of UPF-Palestine, Mr. Kamal Thabet, described the breakfast feeding projects in kindergartens and youth activities in Gaza.

“What struck me most was to see young people 18 and 19 years old having to serve in the army and carry weapons,” Daniela said. She was also touched by the Arabs who told her they were always judged or feared because of being Arab. Chiara DeNotaris said, “The stories of teenagers like us were unforgettable and gave us insiders’ views of the conflict.” She was especially interested in how the young people viewed prospects for peace. One person told her that peace was a matter of building trust, while another person expressed hope that peace would come step by step. Still others seemed skeptical about the prospects for resolving conflict because decisions rest “in the hands of the people in power.”

The Italians celebrated New Year’s Eve with local Youth Federation for World Peace members. Mr. Gasperoni talked about the ideal of pure love, and each participant chose a piece of candy wrapped in a paper with a unique message about true love, which they read to the group. Everyone then partici-

*I will never forget
the eyes of the
children, the smiles
of the boys and girls
so extraordinarily
similar to us, who
share the same
dreams, fears, and
hopes for peace.*

— CHIARA DE NOTARIS



pated in a talent show.

On the final evening, Dr. Shuki Ben Ami, an Israeli Ambassador for Peace, gave an inspiring talk and invited the participants to stand in a circle, join hands, and “look into the face of your neighbors and imagine that you are looking into the face of God.”

Each participant received a Youth Ambassador for Peace award. To stay in contact, the young people exchanged email addresses. Three students were sponsored by their school, the Scientific Lyceum of Pesaro, and were scheduled to report about their trip to the Ministry of Education in Rome.

Playing with kindergarten children

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE

- We are one human family created by God.
- The highest qualities of the human being are spiritual and moral in nature.
- The family is the “school of love and peace.”
- Living for the sake of others is the way to reconcile the divided human family.
- Peace comes through cooperation beyond the boundaries of ethnicity, religion, and nationality.

Membership in UPF

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) extends an invitation to become part of a community of peacemakers. The Universal Peace Federation members include leaders in fields such as government, religion, media, entertainment, sports, academia, business, arts, and education, making up a global collaborative community of responsible men and women dedicated to world peace.

- Senior Membership is open to official national chapters of the Universal Peace Federation.
- Affiliate Organization Membership is open to international

non-profit, non-governmental organizations.

- General Membership is open to Individuals who are appointed as Ambassadors for Peace by the UPF International Secretariat, Senior or Affiliate members.
- Associate Membership is open to non-profit organizations or to friends of UPF who are committed to working towards the purposes and goals of the Universal Peace Federation and who may participate occasionally in its activities.

There are several ways to join:

- Visit our website at www.upf.org to learn the many ways in which you can make the most of UPF membership.
- Call 1-914-631-1331, extension 124, and speak to a Membership Services Representative.
- Download and print a membership application and fax it to 1-914-631-1308 or mail it to Membership Services, UPF, 155 White Plains Road, Suite 222, Tarrytown, NY 10591, USA.

Contact Membership Services or visit our web site at www.upf.org to learn the many ways in which you can make the most of UPF membership.

SUPPORT FOR EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS

By Trevor Jones
Executive Director, UPF-Peru

Ambassadors for Peace in Peru were very busy in December 2007, taking the opportunity of this season of goodwill to visit some of the most deprived areas of Peru to bring them support and hope for the future.

One group, led by the National President of UPF-Peru Rev. Dr. Orestes Sanchez, traveled to Chinchá, a small town about a four-hour drive south of the capital, Lima, that was seriously affected by an earthquake in August. Many people are still without jobs or homes, following the devastation that saw the main church of the town collapse, killing many people who were inside at the time.

The Ambassadors for Peace worked together with the National Police Force, doctors, psychologists, and volunteers, bringing food, medicine, free primary health care consultations, advice on creating small business enterprises, and the traditional Christmas chocolatada event that involves giving children hot chocolate and panetones (Christmas cakes). The many children of these poor people also received guidance from skilled pediatricians. Free haircuts were provided, something very basic that is always appreciated.

Free haircuts were offered to young and old alike.



The Director of the Mothers' Clubs in Peru, Sra. Rosa Castillo, who is also Vice President of UPF-Peru, coordinated this event. This was her second visit to the town since the disaster. On her first visit she mobilized people in Lima to donate clothing for those in the disaster area and then mobilized a convoy of trucks to deliver them.

UPF and its associated organizations have been working with the poor of Peru for many years, providing equipment for communal kitchens where parents join together to produce at least one good hot meal a day for their families. There are now more than 100 such kitchens in Lima and some of the provincial towns sponsored by donations from Japan.

NOTE: A 7.9 magnitude earthquake hit the central coast of Peru on August 15, 2007, killing 519 people and injuring 1,366.

TOP: Dr. Betty Cabrejo, a Navy pediatrician, examines children.

BOTTOM: Dr. Isabel Huarcaya, NGO director and psychologist, talks with the young earthquake victims as they enjoy a chocolate drink and Christmas pastry.



USA AND LATIN AMERICA: TOWARD AN ALLIANCE FOR PEACE

*Dr. Antonio Betancourt
Director, UPF Office of Government Relations*

*Work toward
integrating North
America and South
America should be
based on universal
core principles that
people of faith hold
in common.*

Whether we like it or not, whether we are aware of it or not, the world is marching toward one world in terms of information, technology, communications, and transportation. The world is becoming one global village. At a much slower pace, the world is becoming one human family. However, we are still very divided and dysfunctional, often at war over differences of opinion, ideology, religion, race, class, nationality, economy, and resources.

The process of globalization is happening in regional blocs. Some are more advanced than others. The European Union had its origins in economic and industrial agreements and is advancing toward an actual political union and common constitution. Similar processes are at work in Asia and Africa. Some are moving fast, and some are slow.

In the Western hemisphere, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon has been talking about the integration of South America, fulfilling the dream of founding fathers such as Jose de San Martin and Simon Bolivar. Bolivar was the liberator of five republics: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. At that time Panama was a province of Colombia; so in effect, six republics were liberated by him.

Like George Washington in the US, Bolivar refused to become an emperor after liberation. The crown of emperor was offered to him and he said, "I did not fight for the freedom of the people in order to impose the very system that we liberated ourselves from." His motto was "In the unity of our nations rests the glorious future of our peoples," and he worked for a liberation that would bear fruit in unity.

Father Moon conceives of unity among North,

Central, and South America together with the Caribbean in the context of world integration, specifically among the countries of the Pacific Rim. He sees the necessity of having the North American colossus engage in good neighborly relations with the nations to its south as a prerequisite for fulfilling its role as an exemplary good neighbor to the rest of the world.

For too long, Latin America has not been the focus of the United States. It is too often outside the concerns of US media, finance, and commerce. If the United States would pay the same attention to Latin America as it pays to East Asia and Europe, the Latin American economies would be stronger partners with the US. The United States used its economic strength to contain communism in Korea, China, and Europe by lowering tariffs and investing in manufacturing. It should consider similar policies for Latin America

Rev. Moon is saying that for the US to be a good neighbor, it must set the example of playing by the rules. He refers to the Biblical paradigm of Cain and Abel in describing the relative roles of nations. An "Abel-type" nation, in the biblical sense, is a brother who serves God and has developed a system that can turn ideas into resources and wealth. This is in contrast to Cain, who in the biblical account became resentful and angry when his offering was not accepted. Cain is like the poor person who cannot decide what he is going to do each day to overcome his poverty. Even though there are resources everywhere, he does not know how to mobilize what he is sitting on top of. The US has to be a "good Abel" and unite with Latin America, which has many resources. The peoples of the US and Latin America

have a common destiny, and they should jointly set an example for Europe and the rest of the world.

Father Moon wants to inspire us to work toward the integration of North America and South America based on universal core principles that people of faith hold in common and thereby set an example for the rest of the world. The world needs a standardization of basic ethical values that can bring us together as one family under God.

This exercise is not new. It was instrumental in the creation of AULA, the Association for the Unity of Latin America, in 1984. Father Moon gave funds to renovate Simon Bolivar's house in Cartagena, Colombia. We began by gathering the surviving founders of the Alliance for Progress (which later became the Peace Corps) established by US President John Kennedy and the Inter-American Development Bank. We asked them to help develop ideas that would promote Latin American integration. Out of this grew the ideas for the Summit of the Americas as well as the Ibero-American Summit.

We hosted meetings of some of the brightest minds of the Western Hemisphere, and the alumni of these conferences made substantial progress from 1984 to 1992 and foreshadowed the establishment of MERCOSUR, which brought together Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and Paraguay in 1991 as a model for a common market for South America, and likewise the North American Free Trade Agreement between Canada, the US, and Mexico which was birthed in 1994.

Before there can be unity, Father Moon calls us to address the spiritual division between North and South, which is in part a division between the Protestant culture and the Catholic culture. In 1996, Father Moon, with the help of the International Religious Foundation, brought nearly 10,000 Catholic and Protestant Christians from throughout Latin America to Montevideo, Uruguay, for a series of conferences. There he taught approximately a thousand Christian leaders every week for ten weeks, in order to lay a foundation for integrating diverse traditions within Latin American Christianity.

Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant Christians have to unite and speak with one voice in order to preserve the sacred legacy and relevance of the holy texts that we inherited from our forefathers, or else the secular world will impose on us all one global culture devoid of God and spirituality, based on human-made values and assumptions. Christians of different traditions need to dialogue with each other first, and then with people of other faiths: Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Baha'is, Buddhists, Confucianists, etc.

In addition to dialogue and mutual understanding,

the religious groups in the Americas need to work together for integration based on interreligious service, meeting the real needs of their people. Rev. Moon set the example through the Religious Youth Service, which organizes projects that promote the culture of service and living for the sake of others. It has sponsored more than thirty service projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, many of them with the support of local and national governments as well as religious communities.

One essential project for the unification of North and South is to close of the gap in the Pan American Highway. You cannot drive directly from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, because you need a boat or a plane to cross the swamps in the Darien Gap between Panama and Colombia. The development of the Pan American Highway stalled in the twentieth century because the technology for digging tunnels through swamps was not well developed. Today, that technology exists.

Uniting first South America and then all the Americas is a dream that we can make a reality within the next ten to fifty years. Bit by bit, we can bring people together through real efforts of service, connecting people within nations, connecting people of neighboring nations with each other, and eventually connecting the Americas as we advance toward our goal of one unified global family under God.

“In the unity of our nations rests the glorious future of our peoples.”

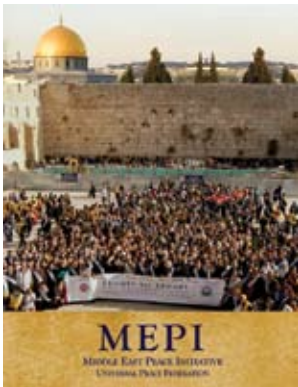
— SIMON BOLIVAR

Originally from Colombia, Dr. Antonio Betancourt has worked for the past thirty years in international affairs. He has been program director for the Middle East Peace Initiative since its inception in 2003 and worked with the Northeast Asia Peace Initiative. This address was given at Universal Peace Federation's International Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, in December 2007.

Antonio Betancourt dialogues with Orthodox Christian priests in Gaza.



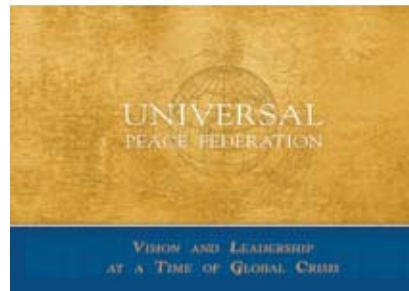
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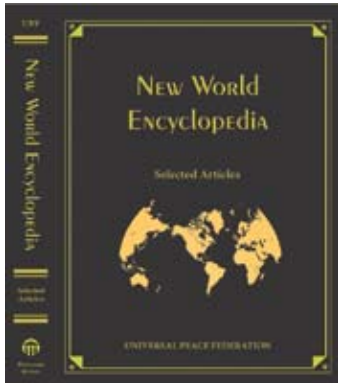


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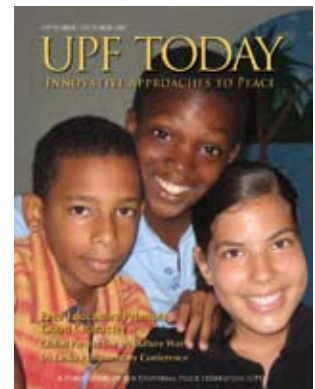
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NEW WORLD ENCYCLOPEDIA: Articles from UPF's encyclopedia project selected from more than 10,000 online entries at newworldencyclopedia.org.

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"We can change the world through the power of true love and living for the sake of others."

UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

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