JULY 2010

UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

Africa Day
Peace and Security in Africa

International Day of Families

A Legacy of Peace

The Role of Women in Social Transformation

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

From the Publisher

Dr. Thomas G. Walsh
President, Universal Peace Federation

In this issue, we celebrate the results of some of the UPF's very fruitful new partnerships, starting with the gala celebration of Africa Day in New York on May 25th. Not only were we very pleased to have been invited to partner in this event with the African Union, but we look forward to an ongoing relationship as we work together to challenge some of the vexing problems facing the African continent in its search for peace and prosperity.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon graced the occasion and took the opportunity to assure the many African ambassadors and diplomats in attendance of the UN's ongoing concern and investment in Africa. UPF chapters far and wide celebrated Africa Day, including both major capitals such as London, Moscow, and Washington DC as well as more unlikely locations such as Kathmandu, Nepal and Quito, Ecuador.

The UPF celebrations of the UN International Day of Families (May 13th) built on the solid foundation laid last year, with programs in more than 40 nations, many addressing this year's UN theme "The Impact of Migration on Families." As well as symposia and seminars to examine both the problems and the opportunities posed by this growing sociological phenomenon, UPF chapters also engaged in service projects involving whole families as well as ceremonies to recognize and honor the role of families in making peace.

The Legacy of Peace programs honor men and women who gave their lives for peace, and were held first at the United Nations in late March, spreading throughout the United States in April and May, and continuing on around the world at the time of publication. In a speech at the United Nations during the first Legacy of Peace program, UPF Founder, Dr. Sun Myung Moon said that by remembering and honoring the lives of these exemplary men and women, the gateway to world peace could be opened just a little wider. "I implore all of you to join us in that work, so that we can change this world to become one family under God," he said. "We must not give up on a world of peace."

Finally, UPF chapters worldwide marked the United Nations International Women's Day with programs examining the role of women in social transformation. In New York, Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the UN, H.E. Joy Ogwu, told the audience her recipe for success in a very male-dominated world: "I tell women they don't need to look for power," she said. "You are divinely powered. You can fulfill any role in society and still be a woman, wife, and mother."

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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:
Some of the performers at the Africa Day program in New York

Africa Day

Peace and Security in Africa

By UPF International

In a major new initiative, UPF partnered with the African Union to celebrate Africa Day 2010 with a major celebration in New York. UPF chapters in many nations also held independent celebrations to mark the annual commemoration of the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on May 25, 1963. On that day 32 independent African states signed the founding charter in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In 2002, the OAU became the African Union.

The prestigious New York event was attended by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Vice President of the General Assembly H.E. Mr. Michel Tommo Monthe of Cameroon, and many other UN and African Ambassadors and dignitaries.

In his speech, the UN Secretary-General said that peace and sustainable development in Africa was one of the world body's top priorities, and he outlined a major personal effort that took him to the continent no less than three times in the month of June alone.

"By consistently reminding the international community of its responsibility to the most vulnerable, and affirming that we are all members of a global family of nations, Africa has helped to reshape the global agenda," he said. "That partnership continues, and every UN entity is working closely with African partners to tackle internal strife, attempts at unconstitutional changes of power, violence against civilians—especially women and children, the

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with UN Ambassadors from African member states cutting the cake to celebrate the 47th Africa Day and the 50th Anniversary of Independence of 17 African Nations.

Africa Day

challenges of youth unemployment, and the burdens of disease, climate change, and food insecurity."

In June, the Secretary-General visited a Millennium Village in Malawi to assess first-hand progress being made towards the Millennium Development Goals. "The evidence is encouraging," he said, "and suggests that when we make real efforts, we can succeed. But if we don't, we fail. We must do more, and we will."

A message was read on behalf of the President of the UN General Assembly by Ambassador Monthe.

H.E. Mr. Michel Tommo Monthe, Vice President of the UN General Assembly and Chair of the Africa Group for May

"Africa is moving to the center stage of efforts for peace," he said.

Next to speak was H.E. Mr. Téte António, Permanent Representative of the African Union. "As we join with the nations celebrating their 50th anniversary of independence," Ambassador António said, "it is also time to strategically assess the challenges and opportunities facing our continent, especially with regard to the twin issues of peace and security."

Mr. Taj Hamad, Secretary General of the Universal Peace Federation, spoke about the role of the family in creating a world of peace. "Some look for happiness through wealth and fame, others through fun and parties," he said. "But if we learn in our families to live our lives in service to others, we will see the face of God in each other, and live happily and peacefully."

After the anniversary cake was cut, the more than 600 guests in attendance turned their attention to a mouth-watering festive banquet featuring food from all African regions, prepared with a great deal of care and attention by respective members of the UN African Ambassadors' Spouses Group, whose President, Mme. Désirée Juliette Tendeng Badji, also addressed the gathering.

The growing role of Africa as a sporting power was another theme of the evening, with several speakers looking forward to the upcoming FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Africa has an unprecedented six teams competing in the world's biggest sporting event.

Mme. Désirée Juliette Tendeng Badji; H.E. Téte António, African Union; and Mr. Taj Hamad, UPF

"By presenting sport as a powerful instrument for peace promotion, we would like to reassert our faith in the values inherent to sports which are consonant with universal values," said AU Chairperson Jean Ping, in written remarks read by Ambassador António.

Later, the Hestiun Group announced a donation for 2011 of 53,000 of its OXYPEN portable water-purifying systems, to be distributed all over Africa in support of its World Water Day commitment to help the UN bring clean water to families all over the world.

As the evening continued, the Manhattan Center resonated with the sounds of a musical journey across Africa with songs from Senegal, rhythmical drum beats of Nigeria and Ghana, dances from Egypt, Rai music from Algeria, griot singers from Mali, and many, many more. It was a worthy celebration of the contributions that Africa has made and is making to the world.

Africa Day

Africa Reshaping the Global Agenda

By UN Secretary-General

Ban Ki-moon

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

A packed house at the Manhattan Center enjoys a dramatic variety of African foods.

AFRICA Day (25 May), which marks the founding in 1963 of the Organization of African Unity, now known as the African Union, provides an annual opportunity to reflect on the challenges and achievements of the Governments and peoples of Africa.

This year's celebration has particular significance as it marks the 50th anniversary of independence of several Francophone African states and Nigeria, the continent's most populous nation.

The independence movement that swept Africa five decades ago brought many new members to the United Nations, resulting in a new focus on the continent's development needs and heightened emphasis on greater democracy in the management of international relations.

By consistently reminding the international community of its responsibility to the most vulnerable, and affirming that we are all members of a global family of nations, Africa has helped to reshape the global agenda.

In turn, United Nations entities have played a key role promulgating the fundamental values of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights among the diverse nations of Africa. From peace and security, to social and economic development and regional integration, the United Nations has proven itself an indispensable partner.

Our extensive presence on the ground in Africa encompasses peacekeeping, peace building, mediation and conflict prevention, and there is growing cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union Commission, exemplified by regular dialogue between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council.

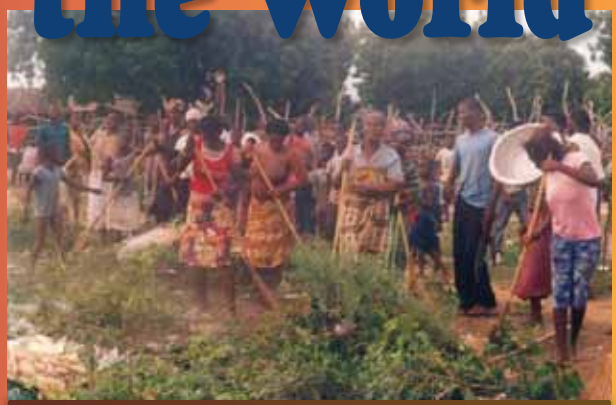
Almost every UN entity is working closely with African partners to tackle internal strife, attempts at unconstitutional changes of power, violence against civilians — especially women — the challenges of youth unemployment, and the burdens of disease, climate change and food insecurity.

The September Summit on the Millennium Development Goals offers yet another venue for upholding our commitments to Africa and supporting the continent's efforts to implement its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Africa is poised to capitalize on its potential.

On this Africa Day, let us rededicate ourselves to fruitful partnerships in pursuit of peace and sustainable progress for all the continent's people.

Africa Day

Around the World



Volunteer Service in Ghana.

Angolans are inspired by the vision of a growing network Ambassadors for Peace to address issues confronting the world

Speakers at an Africa Day event in Brazzaville, Congo.

By UPF International

MONTREAL, CANADA: "On this day, we are all Africans," announced Mr. Robert Duffy as he invited people to comment on their experiences with Africa and its peoples. Rev. Samuel King-Kabu, a native of Ghana and currently pastor with the Lutheran Church in Montreal, emphasized that Africa is a study in contrasts: rich and poor. He shared some of the challenges in improving infrastructure, including water and communication links. Father Tiburtius Fernandez, a Roman Catholic priest, described his experiences during his 14 years in Africa and spoke of a 'tsunami of modernity' washing over Africa.

QUITO, ECUADOR: Mr. René Ortiz, Honorary Consul of the Republic of South Africa to Ecuador, was the featured speaker. African music concluded the evening.

LONDON, ENGLAND: Speakers at a panel addressed the provocative question, "Has globalization enriched or impoverished resource-rich developing African nations?"

"Huge amounts of foreign aid money is lost to developing countries in Africa through the tax dodging and capital flight of multi-national companies, including a number established in the City of London," said Ruth Tanner, Campaign and Policy Officer of War on Want, calling for civil society groups to create stronger networks around the globe as a strong force for fairness and justice.

Alice Ukoko, founder of Women of Africa, emphasized that African women could be a force for peace and development and that international aid should actually be stopped so that Africa will be able to stand on its own two feet.

Ahmed Shebani of the Al Jamar Government and Media Centre based in Tripoli, Libya, described Libyan charities that channeled support for both humanitarian projects and economic development in Africa.

TBILISI, GEORGIA: UPF invited 20 African students and athletes to a day of dialogue about principles of peace, a visit to a school, and an outing to the countryside. Africans shared with the Georgia students about African history and culture. The young people were excited and wanted to meet again. A visit to the Jvari monastery was an opportunity to experience something

Africa Day

of Georgia's heritage and the magnificent scenery of the Caucasus Mountains. The day ended with a barbecue party, singing, and dancing. This was also the first time the Africans had met each other, and they decided to organize an "African Union" in Georgia.

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL: An African football tournament took place in Tel Aviv, with the Nigerian team beating Cote d'Ivoire in the finals. Bouquets of flowers were presented to the wives of Ambassadors from African countries to Israel.

KATHMANDU, NEPAL: Only two African nations have a physical diplomatic presence in Nepal: Egypt and South Africa, and both sent representatives to the Africa Day celebration. Somali refugees in Nepal described their experiences and expressed their hopes for peace.

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS: Maartje Bos talked about the Community Partnership for Youth and Women Development, a multi-purpose community organization in Northern Ghana.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA: The Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Africa invited UPF to make a presentation at the Institute's Africa Day conference. In partnership with one of the largest Russian interethnic NGOs, the Assembly of the Peoples of Russia, UPF celebrated Africa Day in the House of the Peoples of Russia in a joyful program.

The audience included H.E. Dr. Moses Ebuk, Ambassador of Uganda to Russia; H.E. Dr. Sam K. Mbambo, Ambassador of Namibia; H.E. Dr. Kodzo Alabo, Deputy Ambassador of Ghana; and Onessimus Atanze, Temporary Representative Plenipotentiary of Nigeria.

WASHINGTON DC, USA: Liberian Ambassador H.E. Milton Nathaniel Barnes was the keynote speaker at a celebration with the theme "Vision and Hope for Africa" hosted at the Peace Embassy in Washington DC, which also featured his wife, Dawn Cooper Barnes, Chair of the Spouses of All African Ambassadors group; H.E. Mory Karamoko Kaba, Ambassador of Guinea; and H.E. Mahamoud Adam Bechir, Ambassador of Chad.

UPF hosted a side meeting during the Summit of African leaders in Nice, France, to discuss the role of interfaith dialogue in peace building.

African students and athletes perform traditional dances during an outing in Tblisi, Georgia.

Remarks from 20-year UNICEF veteran Aliu Bello at a London symposium that considered the real impact of foreign aid on Africa.

Washington DC: Ambassadors Milton Barnes of Liberia, Mahamoud A. Bechir of Chad and Mory K. Kaba of Guinea along with other participants.

The Impact of Migration on Families

By Joy Pople, UPF International

Three generations of family members perform at an International Day of Families celebration at a school in Chacheongsao, Thailand.

An international couple in Japan talks about their family experiences.

H.E. Ambassador Alya Ahmed S. Al-Thani of the permanent mission of Qatar describes the work of the Doha Institute on the Family and other Qatar family initiatives.

THE Universal Peace Federation held its annual symposium to mark the United Nations International Day of Families May 17th at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea with co-sponsorship from the Permanent Missions of Kazakhstan, Nepal, Nigeria, Qatar, Sri Lanka, and Sudan.

The symposium examined this year's theme, the "Impact of Migration on Families Around the World" with special attention to the stresses and strains on family traditions, marriage and child-rearing. "Strong, healthy families are vital to the success of so many of the UN's larger goals, including the Millennium Development Goals," said Mrs. Lynn Walsh, director of UPF's Marriage, Family and Peace Initiative. She was co-chair of the event, along with H.E. Mr. Alpha Ibrahima Sow of the Permanent Mission of Guinea.

The message of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was read by UPF Secretary General Taj Hamad, and representatives from each of the sponsoring Permanent Missions offered remarks. Particular focus was placed on the challenges that families divided by the migration of one or both parents face in bringing up their children to respect traditional cultures and norms. Among the speakers were H.E. Mr. Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamad, Permanent Mission of Sudan, who said "While migration brings prosperity, it causes grief and separation particularly damaging to children." H.E. Miss Alya Ahmed S. Al-Thani, Permanent Mission of Qatar, talked about the Doha Institute on the Family and the international conferences it sponsors in support of the family. H.E. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Permanent Mission of Nepal, noted that migration tends to weaken intergenerational solidarity and the vital bond between parents and children.

Other featured speakers included Mrs. Sharon Slater, President of Family Watch International, who urged the United Nations to cease promoting anti-family educational policies that end up frustrating the fulfillment of larger UN objectives. Dr. Frederick Swarts of the World Association of NGOs introduced a new "Code of ethics for the family" being launched by WANGO.

"Every migrant can be a diplomat who can bridge cultures," said Ms. Muriel Glasgow of MG Associates. Ms. Renate Kaczmarska, Acting Focal Point for the United Nations Programme on the Family, spoke about how technology and social networking can be used to bring divided migrant families closer together. Finally, interactive group sessions allowed all the 50 participants to share ideas and make their voices heard.

UPF chapters in 40 nations organized programs in honor of the International Day of Families events.

Symposium at UN Headquarters, New York City.

Europe

Migration is an especially sensitive topic in many countries of Europe, with the influx of people from around the world creating challenges for building social cohesion.

Croatia-Speakers at a symposium on families

The Universal Peace Federation encourages international and interracial marriages as "alliances of civilization" on the most fundamental level. The challenges these couples face and the insights they can offer others were highlights of Day of Families events in Austria, France, Germany, and Iceland. Immigrants and immigrant advocates were featured speakers at events in Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, and the UK. In Hungary, families helped families, with parents and children painting bright murals at a shelter for families in transition.

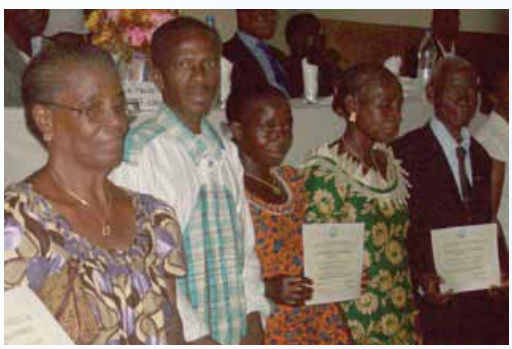
Eurasia

The removal of people from one part of the Soviet Union to another is a sensitive topic in Russia and its neighboring states. Latvians, Estonians, and Russians assembled in Latvia to discuss the causes of family breakdown and proposed various ways to strengthen marriage and family. In the Ukraine, scholars, government officials, and NGO leaders discussed strategies for creating a family-friendly society. Discussions in the Abkhazian parliament and a service project at an orphanage in Georgia sought to build bridges of heart among the people of the South Caucasus. In some Russian cities, surveys were taken of public opinion about Russia's increasingly multicultural society.

Russia: "Best Dad" contest at a rehabilitation center in Ekaterinburg

Africa

Internal migration has been a challenge in many parts of Africa, as people leave their homes not only in search of better economic opportunities but also to escape violent conflicts. Nations with scarce resources have trouble handling the influx of large numbers of people. To give this a positive perspective, in Cote d'Ivoire, outstanding couples were honored with special recognition, three of them from Cote d'Ivoire and three who had moved there from neighboring countries. This acknowledgment touched the hearts of the migrants. In Sierra Leone, another country torn by civil war, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs called on all sectors of society to help protect families. In Nigeria, the head of an organization helping refugees described the challenges of people who move from one state to another in their own country. In Zambia, task forces were formed to promote family values among the diverse people of the nation.



Cote d'Ivoire: recipients of awards as outstanding families

To make the most of the benefits of migration, Governments should implement policies that help migrants adapt and prosper in their host countries. I call on those states that have not yet done so to ratify and implement the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

BAN KI-MOON
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
MAY 15, 2010

The Americas

People from many countries in the Americas leave family members behind as they seek better economic opportunities abroad. Events in Ecuador and Barbados explored the impact this has on the children. In Argentina, Uruguay, and Venezuela, Day of Families events included recognition of couples who have been married for many decades; in Guyana similar awards were given.

In Uruguay 400 balloons with children's drawings were released into the air

Asia

With the growing international population in Japan, ten international couples were invited to share their experiences and the challenges they face relating to the larger society. The fighting in Afghanistan has displaced many families, and Afghan youth collected donations to distribute to families living in tents on the edge of Kabul.

Events in Bangladesh and India educated people about the challenges facing contemporary families, and in Taiwan and Thailand, games and outings were organized to give families opportunities for joyful interaction.

In the Solomon Islands, an official of the International Organization for Migration gave his perspective on the challenges of migration in Australia and throughout Oceania. In Jerusalem, Israeli Jews and Palestinian families enjoyed an outing and conversation at Bell Gardens, a public area where people from all sectors can meet.

A symposium in Kiev, Ukraine

Distributing donations of clothing to the elderly in Afghanistan.

UPF Declaration on Families

1. Universal Peace Federation acknowledges that the family is a microcosm of the global community. If the world is to finally come to an era of sustainable peace and harmony among civilizations, that peace must be founded on this basic, most intimate social unit of humankind. In other words, the family is the central building block of society, as well as being an instrument for peace and reconciliation.

2. The family is universal. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, and religious affiliations, we are all members of families. Most importantly, the family is the school of love and ethics. Through experiences in our families, we learn to embrace and value all relationships in our wider human family—with friends, neighbors, co-workers, colleagues and strangers.

3. Marriage and family are the basis of human development and the core institutions for education in character, ethics, social relationships, and citizenship. Strong, healthy, loving families help protect society from the moral decline of its youth, increase in crime, drug abuse and corruption, as well as the spread of diseases, such as AIDS. In addition, it can help break down the age-old resentments that have fueled religious, tribal and civil conflict.

4. Throughout history, the family has successfully adapted to change. It has survived revolutions, outlived empires, and endured through the economic and social unrest of many societies. This adaptability, however, is now being threatened by a wide range of social developments, economic, cultural, and political. Now is the time to strengthen the family. Restoring the family is one way we can address the proliferation of social and civil problems plaguing the world today.

5. Lasting peace is secured not merely through laws, backed by the power of government enforcement, but by a rising awareness of our universal solidarity as one human family, brothers and sisters who share a common spiritual and moral heritage. We are one family under God.

Honoring a Legacy of Peace

By Dr. Michael Balcomb, UPF International

In honor of a diverse and growing group of prominent and lesser-known individuals who recently passed away and whose lives were dedicated to peace, UPF is hosting 'Legacy of Peace' programs throughout the world.

The series began at the United Nations March 18 to honor the lives of Hédi Annabi, the UN Chief of Mission recently killed with 100 other UN personnel in the Haiti earthquake, and seven other senior statesmen, including former US Secretary of State and NATO Commander General Alexander Haig and Nobel Peace Prize winner Kim Dae Jung of South Korea.

The names of each person were called out one by one, and a representative stepped forward to lay a bouquet of lilies and roses—representing the love and respect of both women and men—in front of a large photograph and ceremonial candle. Highlights of each person's life and contribution to peace were displayed on large video screens as reflective music played softly, and then the audience of around 160 were called to stand for a moment of silence by Taj Hamad, UPF Secretary General.

Ambassador H.E. Jorge Urbina, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, spoke movingly on the dedication of his fallen UN colleagues.

Mr. Alexander P. Haig spoke about the close bond between his father, the late General Alexander Haig, Jr., and the UPF Founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, whose inspiration it originally was to hold the legacy of peace celebration. In 1950, during the Korean War, Haig was an Army captain in the US and UN forces that essentially saved Rev. Moon's life when they liberated the notorious forced-labor prison in Heungnam, where he was due to be executed by North Korean communists.

Later, General Haig served as the US Secretary of State in the Reagan administration; he was also the Supreme Allied Commander (Europe) of NATO in the late 1970s. Over the years in Washington, he and Rev. Moon became close. "Throughout his career, my father spoke warmly of Rev. Moon's commitment to faith, family and freedom," said Alex Haig. "My family has been deeply moved by his outpouring of love and concern at my father's passing."

Dr. Douglas Joo, President of The Washington Times Foundation, offered a personal reflection on the meaning of the Festival of Ascension and Unity as one of the three great landmarks in every person's life. "Birth and marriage are always joyful events," he said, "but regrettably funerals have tended to focus on sorrow and separation rather than celebrating a 'second birth' into the eternal world of spirit. Today we start a new and joyful tradition as we honor these most valuable lives."

Following dinner, Rev. In Jin Moon, Senior Pastor of Lovin' Life Ministries, introduced her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. "I believe that nothing in life is just a coincidence," she said, "and I hope all of us who find ourselves here this evening, especially the young people, will take a moment as we listen to my father's message to consider what legacy of peace we can leave for future generations."

The Moon and the Haig families greet each other at the United Nations Legacy of Peace program

Flower presentation to the honorees

"I am a controversial figure," the 90-year-old Dr. Moon said as he began his keynote address, "and I am well aware that on occasion some people in the United Nations have not understood my work. Yet I have tried to live my whole life with one goal in mind," he said, "to serve God and humanity."

Legacy of Peace Honorees

"I had to come here tonight to honor my dear friend General Alexander Haig one last time, and to say a prayer of blessing for his family," said Rev. Moon. "As I reflect on the lives of all these men and women of peace, I realize that the time is coming closer when I too will make the transition to the next world.

"I have therefore come here this evening to declare that, with God, peace on this earth can come quickly, even in the next three years. I implore all of you to join us in that work, so that we can change this world to become one family under God. The United Nations must not give up on its founding purpose to create a world of peace."

Hédi Annabi, the UN Chief of Mission recently killed with 100 other UN personnel in the Haiti earthquake

46 South Korean sailors in the Cheonan sinking incident in the Yellow Sea

General Alexander Haig, US Secretary of State

Rodrigo Carazo, President of Costa Rica

Kim Dae-Jung, President of South Korea

Abdurrahman Wahid, President of Indonesia

Sheikh Hassan Cisse of Senegal, Founder of the African American Islamic Institute

Steingrímur Hermannsson, Prime Minister of Iceland

Abel Muzorewa, First Prime Minister of Zimbabwe

Laxmi Mall Singhvi, Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India

The Three Stages of Life

Each person's life goes through three stages. Everyone is conceived through the grace of God and the love of his or her parents. The first stage of life is therefore the nine months spent in the mother's womb. No one is exempt from this! Even though a woman's womb is smaller than some rice cookers, from the perspective of a fetus, it is larger than the entire universe.

What about our birth into the second stage of our lives, which occurs on earth? How could we find words adequate to describe the struggle of a newborn baby as it is faced with a completely unfamiliar, new world? Yet the first cry of a newborn as it experiences the large and wide world that it finds upon coming out of the womb is a blessing and celebration of a new time and space that promises a 100-year future.

Today we are all living in the second stage of our lives. Although a hundred years is much longer than the nine months we spend in the womb, this life also is merely preparation for the final stage of our lives, eternal life in the spiritual realm.

Just as the baby in a mother's womb cannot imagine life on earth, as people living and breathing air in this earthly world, we cannot easily understand the spirit world, where we will be reborn in our spiritual bodies, living and breathing true love.

The moment of death should be a time of greater excitement than that of a newlywed bride going to her groom's home for the first time. The moment we enter the spirit world is the time that we enter a world of joy and victory with the fruits born of our lives on earth. It is a time for those of us remaining on earth to send off the departed with joy. It should be a time for great celebration. We should be shedding tears of joy instead of tears of sadness. That is the significance of the sacred and noble *Seunghwa* Ceremony. It is the first step toward enjoying eternal life in God's embrace.

from Dr. Sun Myung Moon's remarks at the United Nations

The Legacy of Peace program in Honiara, capital of the Solomon Islands

Konstantin Krylov, Secretary General of UPF-Russia, opens the Legacy of Peace Festival in the Peace Embassy of Moscow.

(l.) Prime Minister of Nepal, Rt. Hon. Madhav Kumar Nepal, pays tribute to Legacy of Peace honorees in Kathmandu.

Flower presentation to the honorees in London, UK.

The Role of Women in Social Transformation

Mrs. Bharai Sharma, Chair of the OBC Council, speaking at an event in Gangtok, Sikkim, India.

By Genie Kagawa

UPF helped organize celebrations of the UN International Women's Day, March 8, on four continents. Here are excerpts of statements made on this day.

"UPF emphasizes the essential importance of women in addressing issues of peace and development in all sectors, including politics, business, culture, and religion. Women must be encouraged and empowered to assume leadership roles in the resolution of conflict, peace building, and sustainable development." - Rev. Linda Mougel, Chair, UPF-Belize City, Belize

"I tell women they don't need to look for power. You are divinely powered. You can fulfill any role in society and still be a woman, wife, and mother." – H.E. Joy Ogwu, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations

"As a program editor I have interviewed or met several female politicians and got to know one or two of them over the years. Among them were Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan; Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh; and the former President of Sri Lanka, Chandrika Kumaratunga. It's often been pointed out that such women leaders came to power because of their fathers or husbands. But what struck me most about them was how isolated they appeared to be, surrounded by people who often only told them what they wanted to hear. The pressures on them were enormous, and they had to make agonizing choices." – Rita Payne, former Editor, BBC Asia; chair, Commonwealth Journalists' Association-UK

"Most of the 'empowered' women in India were from leading families and had the advantages of financial resources. The challenge is now to extend those opportunities and rights to a broader range of women." – Mrs. Kalawati Subba, Former Minister, Current Member of the Sikkim State Planning Commission, India

"March 8 is associated in our country with the beginning of spring, warmth, and many warm smiles of the better half of humankind. We wanted to see smiles on the faces of women working in the Central Market of Novosibirsk, who were not expecting to receive congratulations on that day. We wanted to bring joy and inspiration to them on Women's Day and show an example to the youth of how much more pleasing it can be to share joy than to just receive it." - Anastasia Mikhakhanova, UPF-Novosibirsk, Russia

"We share common ground so that we may help bring new dignity and respect to women and girls all over the world and in so doing, bring new strength and stability to our families and society. We need to realize the fullness of our abilities. God blessed us with so many virtues and so much potential, the top being the heart of motherly love." – Lily Tadin, President, Women's Federation for World Peace, Canada

"After the attacks of 9-11, many Americans concluded that Muslims as a group hated Americans and wanted to kill Americans. At Project Mosaic we are working with Muslim friends in the UK, the US, the Middle East, Asia, and elsewhere to move beyond the fear and ignorance, and break the vicious cycle of group hatred. With a conversation, over a cup of tea or at a youth club or at a gathering of mothers at a refugee centre or talking with family members and friends, we are working to amplify the voice of the outsider – that person who takes a weakness and transforms it into a strength." – Pat Callo, Trustee, Project Mosaic, UK

"Until now men have dominated history. To counterbalance this, in this era of globalization, women should create their history, or 'her' story. Women need to take a more prominent role in decision-making as well as writing history." – Brigitte Wada, president, Women's Federation for World Peace, France

"Although women have made many strides in society, we seem to have lost sight of what it is we really want. Do we want to be the same as men or be treated as equal

human beings in society? Do we want to be mothers and wives or just career women? Whatever it is that we want, we need to realize that we need to do the work ourselves and not rely on governments and organizations to do it for us." - Hadia Saad, Coordinator of Women's Programs, Alulbayt Foundation, London

"Peace starts at home, with young generations learning respect and cooperation." - Rev. Tsu-Wei Zoe Chang, President, United Nations Women's Guild

The celebration in the Netherlands focused on "Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities, Progress for All."

Participants of UN International Women's Day at the Nigerian Mission in New York City.

Awards were given to Argentine women who have made notable contributions to society. Buenos Aires, Argentina.

UPF Statement on the Status of Women

The Universal Peace Federation upholds the essential value and central role of women in peacebuilding and human development.

UPF affirms the need for women to serve in leadership positions throughout the world in all sectors of society.

UPF recognizes the equal value of men and women. Their absolute value derives from a common origin, God. God is the origin of both men and women, and all of God's creation manifests complementary masculine and feminine aspects.

Men and women are extensions and manifestations of God's harmonious masculinity and femininity. The complementary relationship between men and women expresses the wholeness of human experience. Thus, there should be no gender discrimination but rather harmony of the sexes through love.

Throughout history, women have taken the leading role in cultivating families as the dwelling places of peace and love, in shaping the individual character of children, and in fostering harmonious social relationships. In the family, both father and mother are equally entitled to reverence and honor. The path toward establishing global peace begins with strengthening families.

The ideal of peace is at the core of all religions. Through dialogue and mutual understanding, there can be peace among religions, and peace among religions is a necessary prerequisite for world peace. Women can and should play a central role in promoting interfaith understanding and cooperation.

UPF emphasizes the essential importance of women in addressing issues of peace and development in all sectors, including politics, business, culture, and religion. Women must be encouraged and empowered to assume leadership roles in the resolution of conflict, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.

(l.) "Equal rights, equal opportunities: Progress for All." Toronto, Canada.

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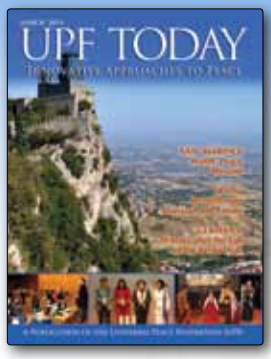

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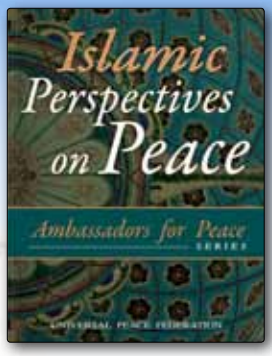

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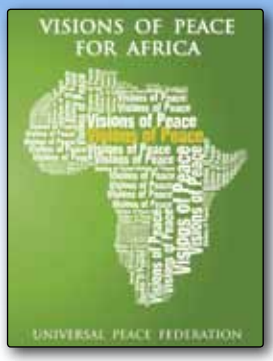

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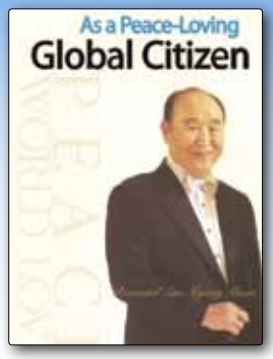

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UPF TODAY
INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

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