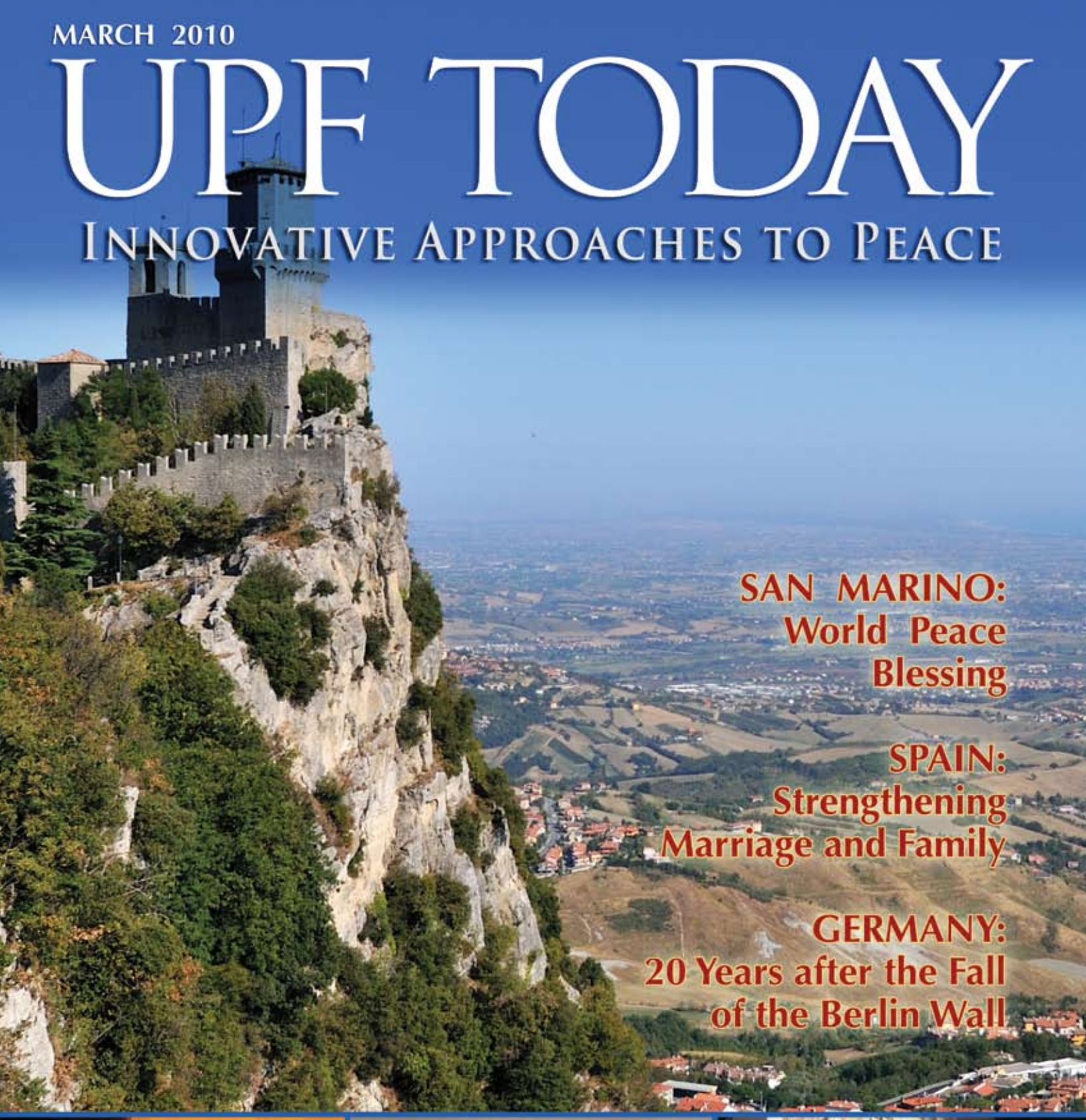
MARCH 2010

UPF TODAY

Innovative Approaches to Peace



SAN MARINO:
World Peace
Blessing

SPAIN:
Strengthening
Marriage and Family

GERMANY:
20 Years after the Fall
of the Berlin Wall

A Publication of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF)

From the Publisher

Dr. Thomas G. Walsh
President, Universal Peace Federation

With the beginning of the new year, the Universal Peace Federation wishes to thank all its international and local chapters, Ambassadors for Peace, and all those working for the sake of peace for their great efforts in 2009. This is also a good moment to consider the challenges and opportunities facing the cause of peace in the years ahead.

The Universal Peace Federation believes that global peace needs a foundation of inner peace. In an address marking the launch of the Universal Peace Federation in 2005, Dr. Sun Myung Moon commented that peace will never come about without a spiritual reformation. "Peace among nations can never come when those entrusted with the task have not found peace in themselves. As long as the 200 or so member states at the United Nations think primarily of their own interests, peace and development remain unlikely."

Yet the UPF Founder remains optimistic that the human family can and will overcome its age-old divisions of race, religion, and nationality and become "One Family Under God." He is challenging individuals and nations to make significant steps to that goal by January 2013, two full years earlier than even the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

As the new decade unfolds, UPF is committed to the vision of a world of peace and is expanding its partnership with UN and other agencies to offer programs of interfaith dialogue and reconciliation, strengthening and support of marriage and family, and promoting a culture of service.

Contents

3 UPF Welcomes New International Chairman
By Michael Balcomb, UPF International

4 Strengthening Marriage and Family
By Mercedes Gonzalez, UPF Spain

6 World Peace Blessing
By UPF International

8 20 Years After the Berlin Wall
By Fritz Piepenburg, UPF Germany

10 Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Process
By Amb. Gerald Coleman, Truth and Reconciliation Commission

12 Peace Needs a Change of Heart
By UPF International

14 Dialogue through Cultural Festivals
By Tatyana Krasnosumova, UPF Russia

16 Little Angels of Peace
By UPF International

17 On Leadership
By Dr. Luis César Guedes Arroyo

18 In Brief

UPF TODAY
Innovative Approaches to Peace

UPF Chairman
Hyung Jin Moon

President
Thomas G. Walsh

Secretary General
Tageldin Hamad

Executive Editor
Michael Balcomb

Editor
Joy Pople

Designers
Kensei Ito
Alberto Faccon

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.

Copyright © 2010, Universal Peace Federation. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part prohibited except by written permission. Periodicals postage is paid at Tarrytown, New York, and additional mailing offices.

UPF is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Universal Peace Federation
155 White Plains Road, Suite 222
Tarrytown, NY 10591, USA
www.upf.org

Cover photos:
Vista of San Marino. Insets, left to right: Conference participants visit the New Synagogue in Dresden, Germany; interfaith prayers at a marriage and family seminar in Madrid, Spain; dancers in Medieval costumes in San Marino.

UPF Welcomes New International Chairman

By Michael Balcomb, UPF International

Dr. Hyung Jin Moon, the youngest son of Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, was installed as the International Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation on November 18, 2009. He succeeds Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, who served a four-year term following the inauguration of UPF in New York City in 2005, and his elder brother Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, who served as co-chair from 2007.

Present at the event were the 12 UPF regional chairs as well as several of the UPF regional secretaries general or their representative, including Mwalagho Kililo (Africa), Konstantin Krylov (Eurasia), Amala McLackland (Asia), and Carolyn Handschin (Europe). Taj Hamad, Michael Balcomb, and Tomiko Duggan represented the UPF international staff, and Dr. Thomas Walsh, UPF President, served as emcee.

In his remarks, the incoming Chair focused on the challenges facing the UPF in its efforts to bring about peace among all the world's religions and to create one family under God.

"There are many organizations working for peace," he said, "so what is it that makes the Universal Peace Federation different? How does our Founder say that peace will come about? It is only possible through a profound spiritual change for the entire human race."

He went on to remark that this spiritual renewal can take place only through institutions such as the World Peace Blessing, which brings men and women of all races, creeds, and religions together in marriages that transcend all barriers.

Welcoming Dr. Moon's call for spiritual change, Dr. Thomas Walsh said that this emphasis on the human condition was similar to the conclusions of the second Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld, who wrote 40 years ago, "I see no hope for permanent world peace. We have tried, and failed miserably. Unless the world has a spiritual rebirth, civilization is doomed."

"Unfortunately, for many years, the United Nations found no place for God or spiritual resources in its deliberations," Walsh said. "But in the last decade and in particular since the UPF Founder's August 2000 call for an interreligious peace council at the UN, there has been a growing recognition of the need for religious resources to be brought to bear in the quest for peace."

Dr. Hyung Jin Moon delivers his inagural message

In his congratulatory remarks, Dr. Min Ha Kim, Chairman of the Ambassadors for Peace in Korea, expressed the hope that Dr. Moon would be able to lead the UPF to bring about the long-awaited goal of the reunification of Korea. "I have been active in this peace effort since 1991, when Rev. Sun Myung Moon met with Kim Il Sung in North Korea," he said. "Let's work together with our new chair to bring this effort to its conclusion."

Finally, Dr. Sun Jo Hwang, Chair of UPF Korea, led the audience in traditional Korean cheers of "Mansei" for the ongoing success of the Universal Peace Federation.

The continuity of the UPF International Secretariat is being maintained through Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, who was appointed President, and Mr. Taj Hamad, who succeeds Dr. Walsh as Secretary General.

Strengthening Marriage and Family

By Mercedes Gonzalez, Chair of the Marriage and Family Initiative, UPF Spain

Data shows that married people are healthier, wealthier, live longer, experience more well-being, and are more altruistic than their non-married counterparts

UPF Spain hosted a series of seminars at the Peace Embassy in Madrid about how families and society as a whole transmit values to the younger generation.

"The family is the school of love and peace," says Armando Lozano, Secretary General of UPF Spain. "With good role models, people can become better parents and grandparents. Children can grow up to be responsible and peaceful citizens when in their homes they learn the virtues of love, peaceful persuasion, harmony, cooperation, and altruism."

Music and dances from a variety of cultural traditions, awards to outstanding couples, and a presentation from UPF's principles of peace launched a series of monthly seminars throughout the year on themes such as choosing a marriage partner, the engagement period, building the marriage bond, and developing a parental heart. The topic that seemed to generate the most interest was respect, especially for one's elders. People are concerned by the loss of respect among young people, and the resulting problems.

The keynote speaker was Dr. José Manuel López Molina, a psychiatrist and professor at the University of Madrid. "The best thing that we can offer to young people are ideals, communicated not only by words but by our example," he said. "Our daily good manners, actions, and good accomplishments should be their reference points for growth and development."

Dr. Niceto Blázquez, a priest and psychologist from the Dominican Order, emphasized the vital contribution that having a mature character brings to all relationships. A missionary and educator from the Idente Order, Sister Dr. María Fernanda Lacilla Ramas, spoke about the need to cultivate spiritual and emotional maturity.

"Our capacity to love is a measure of our spiritual maturity, particularly to express unconditional love," explained Mr. Edward Hartley, head of UPF's Marriage and Family Initiative in the UK. A speaker at the June seminar, he encouraged his audience to do whatever they could to encourage marriage rather than casual relationships, prepare people for marriage, and promote marriage enrichment.

"Sociological data show that married people are healthier, wealthier, live longer, are safer to be with, experience more well-being, and are more altruistic than their non-married counterparts," he said. Stable relationships provide the environment to learn about love through parent-child bonds, sibling bonds, and marriage bonds.

Many of the seminars featured women who have dedicated their lives to strengthening family values in Spain. These included Mrs. Pilar Gutiérrez, president of United for Life; Mrs. Maria Claudia Cevallos Ugarte, a professor of political science; Mrs. Gloria Juste, President of the Women, Work, and Family Foundation; and Mrs. Rosa María Jiménez, president of the Association for the Education and Formation of Personality and Human Relations.

Among the many outstanding couples recognized during the year were Mr. Juan de Dios Cuevas de la Paz and Mrs. Deutasia Sepúlveda de Cuevas from the Dominican Republic, now living in Madrid. They have been married for 56 years and have 12 children, 46 grandchildren, and 14 great-grand children.

Mr. Manuel Campillo, a businessman and UPF family educator, described the secret of success in marriage not as marrying the "right person" but investing the "right heart and attitude" in the relationship and making the commitment to do what is right. He described the principles that guide a harmonious marriage as divine love, forgiveness, patience, acceptance, sacrifice, altruism, understanding, and respect.

The parents and grandparents in the audience were interested in being effective in these roles. One couple commented after the November seminar about the responsibilities of parents and

children: "How important it is for getting along to be aware of our responsibility as active agents in all the spheres in which we move!"

About 11 percent of Spain's 46 million people are immigrants, mostly from Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. They bring the traditions of their culture and extended families to Spain. Although Spanish society has become more secular, the influx of Latin American immigrants, who tend to be devout Catholics, has resulted in increased church attendance. Recent waves of immigration have also led to an increasing number of Muslims in Spain.

Ambassadors for Peace from Caribbean and South American communities in Spain described the traditional values which they seek to pass on to their children and grandchildren in their adopted homeland.

Mrs. Rosario Zanabria compared the family traditions of Peru and of Spain. Mrs. Violeta Cedano described how the people of the Dominican Republic help their relatives and neighbors. Valuable contributions were also made by Dr. María Claudia Cevallos Ugarte, an educator from Ecuador, and Mr. Juan Fernández of the Dominican Republic.

"I love these seminars more and more, because of the quality of the lectures. I am also learning to be a better person through the prayers, and I am starting to think about the problems of other countries."

Seminars included a toast to marriage and family and prayers for peace for brothers and sisters in the larger human family who live in trouble spots such as the Middle East and Mindanao, Philippines. Mrs. Cristina Villar, an elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, gave background information about conflict in the family of Abraham and challenged people in the audience to serve as bridges among Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Candles were lit and representatives of various faiths offered prayers from their tradition.

When we started this series a year ago, we didn't know what kind of response we would receive. We found that people were especially interested in practical guidance for relationships and resolving conflict.

One person commented, "I love these seminars more and more, because of the quality of the lectures. I am also learning to be a better person through the prayers, and I am starting to think about the problems of other countries."

Mr. Juan de Dios Cuevas de la Paz and Mrs. Deutasia Sepúlveda de Cuevas have been together for 56 years

Representatives of various faiths pray for the larger human family.

World Peace Blessing

By UPF International

Korea

October 14

Rev. and Mrs. Moon offer a prayer for the couples

The Universal Peace Federation represented by several hundred Ambassadors for Peace was delighted to participate in the World Peace Blessing of 20,000 couples on October 14 in Korea. It was a rich festival of love, friendship, and reconciliation that also captured the attention of the world's media, with reports running in more than 120 nations.

Most of those stories naturally focused on the many newly-wed couples who stood front and center at the ceremony at Sun Moon University. Yet thousands more who came to rededicate their marriages and offer their support for and families to create lasting peace said that the ceremony had created a lasting impact.

In his prayer of Blessing, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon reminded the more than 20,000 couples physically present and tens of thousands more joining the ceremony by Internet and satellite that the vision of the blessing extends even further than world peace, looking forward to a day when the entire human race is reunited as one family under God. "Father, it has been so many, many years since Your first children turned away from the path of life," he prayed, "but even today, let us begin a new age of peace and reconciliation."

Among those offering congratulatory remarks following the ceremony was H.E. Alfred Moisiu, former president of Albania. "We have been newly commissioned as Ambassadors for Peace and as families that must now be a new model of peace," he said.

Mrs. Gayatri Nepal, wife of Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal of Nepal, expressed hope that the model of the blessing could help bring peace in her own country. "I strongly believe in Father Moon's teaching—that the family is the foundation for world peace," she said. "I will go back to Nepal and explain to my husband that we should support Father Moon's efforts to build strong families." "The Blessing was spectacularly wonderful," said General Malimba Masheke, Zambian diplomat and former Prime Minister.

Masheke, Moisiu, Nepal, and others were all participants in the Universal Peace Federation's International Leadership Conference on the topic of "Marriage and Family as an Instrument of Peace." Almost all of the 250 participants came accompanied by their spouse and celebrated the blessing together.

The following day, Rev. and Mrs. Moon met with the leadership conference delegates for a special program at the Cheon Jeong Goong Museum outside of Seoul, where Rev. Moon spoke for almost six hours to the group. "Humankind is entering a new providential era, a time in which all can enter the Kingdom of Heaven by inheriting God's infinite standard of love and heart," he said. "To be ready for that time, we must lead lives in accordance with heavenly law, lives that are transparent and clear as a mountain stream."

"We need this kind of education in Somalia," said Professor Mohammed Omar Dalha. "The peace education being provided by Rev. Moon and the Universal Peace Federation could be enormously helpful to our new parliament as it faces the task of healing our nation after so many years of conflict."

San Marino

January 23

The World Peace Blessing came to San Marino as part of the 36th European Leadership Conference on the theme "The Significance of Marriage and Family for Peace in the 21st Century." One hundred and twenty Ambassadors for Peace from 17 nations and four major religious traditions joined the ceremony held on January 23 in San Marino's little jewel of a national theatre, welcomed by Mrs. Fausta Morganti, former Education Minister for 15 years and Regent (Head of State) in 2005.

The participants, including former government ministers, Members of Parliament, global leaders in interfaith, a police general, leading academics, media professionals, NGO officers, and religious leaders began the ceremony by sharing a cup of holy wine as an instrument of grace to connect to God's love, life, and lineage. Their joyful faces were clear testimony to their preparedness to participate in the ceremony to heal the resentment of centuries of hurt between men and women, and reconcile the human family to God.

We felt as though the Theatre Titano was tailor-made for our joyous Blessing event as a troupe of performers in medieval costumes welcomed us at the door and the dignified stage and elegant stalls and balconies held us in a warm embrace.

A beautiful banner announcing the World Peace Blessing rose at the height of the ceremony to reveal a video recording of the Blessing invocation in Korea last October. Dr. Yong Cheol Song and his wife officiated with dignity throughout the whole ceremony.

Standing tall in the front row was the imposing figure of Mr. Taj Hamad, Secretary General of UPF International, in the white turban and robes of his native Sudan. He contributed greatly to the conference by sharing news of the international work of UPF in 2009 and the vision ahead for 2010.

"I was deeply moved by the wonderful interfaith prayers from Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Islam," said Hamad, "and impressed by the thoughtful remarks of Riccardo Venturini (representative of San Marino to the Council of Europe), Lord Tarsem King of the United Kingdom Parliament, and Dr. Willem van Eekelen, former Dutch Defence Minister and tireless supporter of European unity."

San Marino, a picturesque community of about 30,000 people in the Italian peninsula, is the longest continuous republic in the world, founded at the start of the 4th century by a Christian stonemason fleeing persecution. It is an extraordinary nation in miniature and plays an active part in global institutions from the Council of Europe to UNESCO.

We have been newly commissioned as Ambassadors for Peace and as families that must now be a new model of peace.

Celebrating in San Marino

20 Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall

By Fritz Piepenburg, UPF Germany

"Twenty years ago, the people of East Germany courageously took to the streets and fought for their freedom," said Dr. Dieter Schmidt of UPF Germany summing up the situation throughout the former communist nation in October and November 1989. The setting for Schmidt's remarks was a UPF conference in Dresden, a city in eastern Germany where people vividly recall the events two decades earlier that led to peaceful reunification of their country.

In his welcoming address to participants at a November 6-8 conference about reunification, Dr. Schmidt described an era that has been deeply touched by fate. "Citizens were demonstrating in the tens of thousands, peacefully but with great determination, for freedom and human rights," said Schmidt. "Few of them would have dreamed that within two decades a woman from East Germany, Angela Merkel, would be elected chancellor of a reunited nation."

(Far Right) The Berlin Wall at the Brandenburg Gate. November 9, 1989

Eyewitnesses Speak

Rev. Erich Busse was a pastor in East Berlin at the time of the "*Wende*," or turning point, as the events of 1989 are known in Germany. As one of the founders of the "New Forum," he made his church available for public meetings, resulting in congregations larger than ever before ... or since! While in the past, churches had failed to oppose exploitation, oppression, racial discrimination, and anti-Semitism, they were key agents during this time of change.

Seeds that had been sown long before 1989 blossomed, and many Protestant churches and pastors played decisive roles in their uncompromising commitment to non-violence and courageous opposition to the state security police. Catholic churches, which had initially issued only statements of support, eventually also opened their doors to the crowds.

Dr. Frank Richter, then a Catholic priest, was a member of the "Group of 20" in Dresden who were selected by the demonstrators to present their demands to the then mayor Wolfgang Berghofer for easing the restrictions on life under Communist rule. He described protests that began with daily candle-light prayers in the ruins of the Frauenkirche, the city's landmark cathedral that had been destroyed by Allied bombs during World War II. One official had said, "We were ready for anything," Richter recalled, "except candles and prayer." On October 7, political leaders were in the City Hall celebrating the anniversary of the establishment of the East

Dr. Frank Richter

"Many churches and pastors played decisive roles in their uncompromising commitment to non-violence and courageous opposition to the state security police."

German republic while citizens were marching in the streets and proclaiming, "We are the people!" The following day, representatives of the people were able to meet with the mayor and secure his cooperation in matters that were under his

jurisdiction. Fortunately, there was no violent confrontation, and the crowd dispersed.

A mathematician at Humboldt University in Berlin, Dr. Jörg Wolf was in his hometown of Plauen, where 80,000 citizens were assembling day after day at the Theatreplatz. The churches there were also calling for non-violence. Demands for greater freedom were made, at first quietly and individually but then increasingly vociferously and in unison. Suddenly the crowds started moving towards the city hall, where they were confronted by police and soldiers, who were armed not only with water cannons but also with machine guns. This sight strengthened the determination of the crowd, which demanded to speak to the mayor. Demonstrators placed lit candles in front of the policemen and soldiers and sought to dialogue with them by stating, "You are citizens just like us!" Despite all the emotion, incredible discipline was maintained and no violence erupted. As in Dresden, representatives eventually met with the mayor, who agreed to their demands.

Prof. Dr. Konrad Löw, then a professor of political studies at Bayreuth University in West Germany, said that West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the Constitutional Court had remained convinced that the two divided states belonged to one Germany. However, in 1989 the political parties on both sides were unprepared for the sudden dismantling of the wall.

Claus Dubisz recalled his youthful conviction that reunification was possible. He was among the demonstrators of the CARP student movement that quoted US President Ronald Reagan's words, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" The Berlin Wall symbolized the entire border between Eastern and Western Europe. On November 9, 1989, a statement was issued that citizens of East Germany could travel without hindrance to the West, and citizens joyfully dismantled the Wall.

Dubisz recalled the UPF founder's admiration that the reunification of Germany was peaceful. Like the Germans, Koreans deeply long for a peaceful reunification of their homeland.

Other conference speakers discussed the need for unifying common values as the nation moves forward. Insights were offered from various perspectives. Dr. Martin Bauschke, a theologian and scholar of comparative religions, described theologian Hans Küng's Global Ethic project based on the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Pastor Lolowengo Botembe, founder of the Ecumenical African church in Berlin, reminded the audience of the key contributions of immigrants to German economic growth. Mrs. Hildegard Piepenburg, a committee member of the Family Federation, described the classical family structure of father, mother, and child as essential for social stability and deserving of protection.

Hilde Piepenburg

The evening entertainment was rounded off by the fireworks display that illuminated Dresden and cities throughout Germany celebrating the drama of national reunification. The following day participants visited the historic Frauenkirche and New Synagogue.

Churches as Peacemakers

Religious leaders played important roles in the process of peaceful change not only in Berlin, Dresden, and Plauen but also throughout East Germany. Churches became meeting places where prayer walks and peaceful demonstrations were organized. Crowds would march to the City Hall, where pastors and other courageous civil leaders would approach the policemen, talk softly with them, and insist on meeting the mayor to present the demands of the people to him.

There were discussions among police and army officials about how to deal with the ongoing demonstrations. Hardliners stated that only a display of strength could bring the situation under control, while others pointed out that the protestors were not aggressive or violent. Advocates for nonviolence won out, and the nation's division ended without bloodshed.

The West Germans knew that reconstruction and reintegration would be expensive, and they were willing to make the sacrifices. Initially, thousands of East Germans migrated to the West. Now, economic growth in the West is stagnant, and better job opportunities are sometimes found in the East.

Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Process

By Amb. Gerald Coleman, Member, Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Our responsibility was to judge the nation's past so as to chart a better future.

Only once in the history of a nation should a Truth and Reconciliation Commission be needed. In reviewing the conflict, our responsibility as Liberians was to judge our nation's past so as to chart a better future.

At the close of 2009, a year proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Year of Reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia released its final edited report to the Liberian people. History expects our elected leaders to give proper significance to the work that went into this report and, more importantly, give merit, dignity, and relief to the souls of our beloved brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters who were forced into the spiritual world or into difficult life circumstances because of our collective past inability to resolve social and economic injustice through the rule of law.

We were commissioned by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on February 22, 2006. I served as one of nine Commissioners until June 30, 2009. These three years opened my eyes to the challenges of human interaction and its impact on peace and development. The dossier of information was compiled with great sacrifice and left indelible memories. These insights have enhanced my understanding and love for Liberia as a nation of destiny for Africa.

Commission members with Amb. Coleman (top-middle)

The conflict that began with the rice riots in 1979 and ended with the signing of the Accra peace accords in 2003 was like a train fueled by the selfish motivations, values, and objectives of Liberia's leadership class. They failed in their responsibility to protect the nation's peace, security, and unity. Other players, both local and international, kept the conflict active when it should have subsided. On all sides there was selfishness, greed, resentment, financial interest, and ignorance.

Our Commission wanted to carry out a "national visioning process" to engage everyone in a commitment to a "collective future" of national peace, unity, security, and reconciliation. Regrettably we lacked the time and resources, so we improvised through the national conference held in June of 2009.

I signed the commission's report and am writing to supplement it with insights which in my opinion are needed for rebuilding this nation. Some Commissioners did not sign the report but published written dissensions. This should tell the world how difficult it is for a people to be critical about themselves and move towards a new future.

Our responsibility was to judge the nation's past so as to chart a better future, not to deal with personal guilt and apprehensions of the painful past. This transitional justice process should separate a nation from its evil past and ensure that it does not resurface.

The election in 2011 will be Liberia's first constitutional election since the 1970s. Our collective national decisions about the report will determine our ability to learn from the past and change our future. Leaders are responsible to represent our national best interest, ensure that the rule of law prevails, and learn from our past

A Truth and ReconciliationCommission hearing

We have to set a precedent for Africa... to ensure accountability while dealing with impunity without providing amnesty.

in order to change our future. Our President can play a vital role as a national mother during this critical transitional period.

Those who held public office and violated human right laws, or were associated ideologically or financially with such violators, need to vindicate themselves peacefully through the rule of law. Some believe that political leadership is a right, but history will bear witness that it is a privilege not a right. Those who committed lesser crimes, such as political and financial association with violence, economic crimes, and human rights abuses, can be completely pardoned of all political sanctions through mechanisms set up by the Commission.

Those who committed greater crimes, whether economic or military, can be pardoned by a public recommendation to the Head of State after they have humbled themselves to the judicial process of the rule of law. This is a special reconciliatory pardon that requires humble submission to the will of the innocent Liberians and the restorative justice mechanism.

I pray that the Liberian people will forgive all those who properly follow this process. We have to set a precedent for Africa. This unique approach to reconciling our past was the natural consequence of our mandate to ensure accountability while dealing with impunity without providing amnesty. It was also a consequence of the reckless way in which the civil war was fought and the caliber of leaders who guided it.

In this International Decade of a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for Children of the World (2001-2010), let us reflect on the many innocent lives lost in the search for peace and social justice. May those lives not be lost in vain because of a few unrighteous ones. At the same time, let us strive to love and forgive those unrighteous ones, once they have humbled themselves to the heart and will of the people and of heaven.

Let us all, as members of the human family who have survived this past century of deadly conflicts, give thanks to God and remember that our betrayal of His love and hope allowed evil to rise in our midst and abuse us. Let us not repeat the tragic mistakes of the past. May God bless our nation and guide us as we collectively strive to restore our national pride and fulfill our national destiny in harmony with His will.

Amb. Gerald Coleman is Secretary General of UPF Liberia and a former Ambassador of Liberia to the Far East, facilitating student and cultural exchange programs and food aid. A copy of the full report of the Commission is available at www.trcofliberia.org.

Our Commission wanted to carry out a "national visioning process" to engage everyone in a commitment to a "collective future"

Peace Needs a Change of Heart

By UPF International

Rev. and Mrs. Moon greet the Las Vegas audience

There's no place on earth quite like Las Vegas, a city devoted to the pursuit of pleasure, yet too often a gateway instead to unhappiness and even despair. In his first public speech in Nevada in almost ten years, on December 16, 2009, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon referred to the contradictions of Las Vegas as a metaphor for the internal change needed if humanity is ever to find peace.

Rev. In Jin Moon, President of the Unification Church of America, had the happy task of introducing her own father to a packed house. "Everyone comes to Las Vegas hoping to win the jackpot," she said, "and I think that we who are hearing these messages are winners of a much more important prize. Let us be the people God needs to bring change to America and the world. We don't need to wait for political or religious leaders to take action. Let us seize the day!"

Let us be the people God needs to bring change to America and the world.

Rev. Emanuel Wasson III, Pastor of Las Vegas' Holy Trinity A.M.E. Church urged the mostly out-of-town crowd to leave Las Vegas with a renewed hope. "Though we come from many different backgrounds, let us celebrate the most important thing we all have in common," he said. "And that is, that we are all the children of the one God. When you go home, remember to testify that the Spirit of God is alive and well in Las Vegas!"

In his keynote address, Dr. Moon addressed the need for change of heart and a change of mind to bring America back in line with the destiny given to it by God. Rather than simply dwell on the promiscuity and corruption commonly associated with Las Vegas, he drew attention to the missed opportunity for goodness. "If even a portion of the colossal energy and expenditure invested in Las Vegas every day in the personal pursuit of pleasure could be diverted into a heavenly purpose, the pursuit of true happiness, how quickly the world could be changed!"

Father Moon emphasized that our daily habits and the mental and emotional environment that these habits and choices create surround each of us with energies that have a profound but often unnoticed effect on our spiritual well-being. "There are a lot of evil things going on in Las Vegas," he said, "but even this town can become a heavenly community filled with the children of God, the heavenly King."

A Call to Action

Excerpts from the speech by Rev. Sun Myung Moon on December 16, 2009

I have prayed long and hard though the night, even during the darkest nights when I was in prison, to find out how to help the American people realize that God is our living heavenly parent and that the spiritual world is real. Without God, there is no way that we can rescue America from a self-centered and individualistic culture that is far from the truth.

Recipients of the UPF Excellence in Leadership Awards

I have watched many, many people waste their time and their money here in Las Vegas, but I still want to help them, and to help America. After all, I can never forget the fact that it was American soldiers who freed me from a communist prison camp and prevented my homeland from being lost to tyranny. I will always love America deeply. Yet I can see that in many ways the moral climate in this nation is getting worse.

We are living in a time when everything will become clear. One can use the Internet to find out almost anything, including the things which people would rather remain hidden. How much more so will the truth of the heavenly world be known when we learn how to use our God-given abilities in the right way! We must all live lives of purity and clarity.

How can then can we create a world of peace? Today we are talking about the settlement of an Abel United Nations. What does that mean? It will be a world where the major nations such as the USA, Russia, and China, instead of investing billions in unnecessary weapons and defense technologies, will understand that God is waiting in sorrow for all His children to come back Him in peace.

God desperately needs good men and women to build his kingdom now. Yet the nations of the world are wasting their time and effort on armies and weapons, and families are breaking down because people are not honoring the true love, life, and lineage that God wants to give to all of us.

This task starts with every family and every couple. The heaven I know is not a place that anyone can go to just by themselves. You and your spouse should become True Parents yourselves, and when you successfully multiply families of peace, this nation and the world will become peaceful too.

Dialogue through Cultural Festivals

By Tatyana Krasnosumova, UPF Russia

It's important to create opportunities for children to assimilate the values of a culture of peace.

The countries bordering the Baltic Sea are linked to Russia by culture, history, and geography. Russia's relations with the former Soviet republics of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia remain tense. Hence, UPF Russia launched a Baltic Dialogue initiative to establish new channels of dialogue on the basis of shared European values.

Activities include cultural exchanges and cross-border projects. The network of Ambassadors for Peace in neighboring nations offers many possibilities for cultivating bonds of friendship and cooperation.

Children from Russia, Finland, and Sweden participated in a festival and cultural exchange on the theme of the "Light of the Christmas Star" December 11 – 15. The Russian children had spent several months preparing for the festival, which included a trip to Finland and Sweden.

On the first day, students from St. Petersburg and nearby areas gathered in a big hall to learn to know one another. First, they took part a game based on folk tales about a new-year tree, a bunny, and a silver star. Then people dressed as Father Frost and his colleague from Finland, Yolupukki, arrived and offered congratulations and best wishes. Father Frost is a beloved character from Russian folklore who lives in the woods and rules supreme from November until March. In Finland, he is known as Yolupukki.

Studying their cultures is a good means to understand neighboring people, experience their creativity, and learn from each other.

There was an exhibition of artwork on the theme of "Young Ambassadors for Peace." There were drawings, paper crafts, mats with traditional designs, and beautiful handmade national costumes. On the second day, children competed in categories of singing, dancing, and circus performance. The jury had a hard time to choose the winners, because all the entries were interesting and well presented.

A serious discussion took place among the older participants about the ways they can contribute to the life of their country. In a neighboring room, the younger children made drawings showing how they envision the "country of the future." The best drawings were awarded prizes from the foundation formed by the Russian artist Mihail Chemiakin.

The following day everyone traveled to Turku on the southern tip of Finland. There were musical performances on the piano and accordion on the theme, "Peace in your mind, love in your family, and peace on the planet."

The final events, in Stockholm, Sweden, included music competitions and recognition of young people who embody the ideals of the Universal Peace Federation. They received letters of commendation, prizes, and certificates as Young Ambassadors for Peace. School children in Sweden also received gifts that the Russian children had made when they were getting ready for their visit.

Preparations for the December festival began on September 21, the International Day of

Peace. More than 100 students in northwestern Russia participated in an event that day on the theme "The Baltic Sea Is Our Common Sea." The program started with a Finish folk dance, followed by interactive training about "Living in peace with others." Children created a list of tolerance principles and created a symbolic Corridor of Friendship by planting rows of young trees.

Parents raised money for their children to travel to Finland and Sweden to participate in the December "Light of the Christmas Star" celebrations.

Teaching Children Tolerance

By Yerofeeva Natalya Yurievna, UPF Urals, Russia

United Nations commemorative days such as the International Day of Tolerance on November 16 each year are not widely observed in Russia. The Urals branch of UPF decided to help popularize this day because tolerance is so important in promoting world peace.

Representatives of different religions and community organizations met for a round-table discussion in Yekaterinburg on "Practical experience in creating respectful relationships between followers of different confessions and spiritual trends."

Teaching Children Tolerance

The topic is relevant because religion is the institution for preserving spiritual and moral values and is called to be the school of love and forgiveness.

Unfortunately, differing religious doctrines often become a starting point of conflict and bloodshed. Until now there has been no consensus about how to develop interreligious relations or even whether it is necessary. The topic is constantly under discussion, and living examples of mutual respect are needed.

The theme challenged participants to focus on practical instead of philosophical considerations. They shared ways to get people from different religions to start dialoguing. They discussed plans in Kazakhstan and Korea for building temples where people of all religions can worship. While holding different opinions, people did gain a mutual understanding, and in the friendly atmosphere people decided to join efforts in reaching the goals.

By the time they are adults, most people's worldview is already established. Therefore, it's important to create opportunities for children to assimilate the values of a culture of peace. A round-table discussion on "School as a social institution teaching tolerant consciousness" was organized in a school where tolerance is being taught successfully. Both hosts and guests could analyze the accumulated experiences and learn the best methods. The event was attended by teachers and representatives of public and social organizations.

A project called "We are different, still we are friends!" brought teenagers from the neighboring city of Serov to lead interactive exercises about tolerance. One task was to build a model bridge symbolizing the unity and mutual understanding of the competing teams. The bridges had to be able to carry a considerable weight, and both bridges built during the program passed the test triumphantly.

In the city of Revda in the Sverdlovsk region, a "Room for Peace" was created in the Scarlet Sails club. The heart of the room was a "bench of friendship," and people who sit there must speak kind words to each other. People who quarrel are invited to sit on the bench and try to solve their conflict through peaceful conversation. Older children decorated the walls. Adults made the bench and small children decorated it with multicolored imprints of their little palms, symbolizing that although we are different, we are always ready to reach out to others with a helping hand of friendship. Parents, children and teachers celebrated the opening of the Room of Peace with a circle dance of friendship of friendship, making a "web of friendship," and drinking tea.

Little Angels of Peace

Hundreds of Korean War veterans and their families will be treated to performances

On this year of the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, the Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea will tour the U.S. to celebrate the enduring Korean-American friendship and to express the deep gratitude the Korean people still feel toward all Americans for preserving their freedom.

"America paid a huge price in blood and tears that we'll never forget," said Dr. Bo Hi Pak, who founded the Little Angels in 1962. Pak, a retired diplomat and Korean Army lieutenant colonel, is himself a Korean War veteran.

The exceptionally bloody conflict, which killed about 1 million South Koreans and 2 million North Koreans, including civilians, ended with an armistice in 1953 after more than 36,000 American soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice. Chinese and Russian casualties were estimated at almost a million.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak has given his enthusiastic support to the Little Angels' tour, saying, "I highly praise and value their efforts."

Over the next two years, the tour will include all 16 nations that contributed troops to the United Nations-led Korean War effort: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Efforts will also be made to invite Russian and Chinese veterans of the first major conflict of the Cold War to participate in ceremonies of reconciliation and closure.

Beginning in the US on June 9, hundreds of Korean War veterans and their families will be treated to performances in Washington, DC, New York City, and Atlanta, Georgia. On June 25, the anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, the Little Angels will participate in a ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

South Koreans are gratefully aware of the sacrifice of the international community that protected freedom in their nation, which has become one of the most prosperous in the world. They are coming on a wave of national pride in the 5,000-year-old rich culture of Korea, with its enthralling dance and thrilling music.

The ballet troupe is composed of mostly girls aged 9 to 15. Though young, their professional level of singing and dancing has inspired audiences all over the world for the past 48 years. They have performed at the White House, the United Nations, Buckingham Palace in London, and the Kremlin in Russia.

"We want to give U.S. veterans a performance that will thrill and delight them, and at the same time astound them with the contrast between the ragged children they remember begging in the gutter in 1953 and those 'visions of perfection' they will see on stage today," said Pak, who is chief executive of the Korean War 60th Anniversary Memorial Committee, which is sponsoring the tour in the United States.

The Little Angels were started at a time when South Korea was still very poor. There were few resources available, and Pak and his associates had to scrape and sacrifice to make the vision of the dance troupe a reality. As the years passed, the dancers refined their art and they are now considered a world-class ballet troupe.

"But our most important performances of all," said Pak, "are awaiting us on this upcoming tour, because they will be perhaps the final 'thank you' we can make to our precious Korean War veterans in the twilight years of their lives."

On Leadership

By Dr. Luis César Guedes Arroyo

While the world is burning due to the atrocities and persistent violations of human values, the people of our time are developing a new consciousness that will enable us to overcome fear, ignorance, and isolation. The leadership required to promote this process will be of a new spiritual and intellectual kind. It should widen horizons for people, allowing room for potential rather than probabilities, where unity and diversity will be defined anew as simultaneous and necessary poles of the same essence.

This sort of leadership will have to be different because the context is different. Leaders will have to make a commitment to create a better world, where people's spiritual and moral needs—as well as those scientific and intellectual resources they have at their disposal for everyday life—will result in productive and creative harmony for humankind.

Knowledge should not focus on humankind and nature as opposite forces or reduce information to a new statistic order. Knowledge should be the means to free humanity from the destructive force of fear and guide the way to a renaissance of faith.

We have to accept the responsibility that springs from the fact that individuals and society are complementary and interrelated, that slavery in any kind of totalitarianism has been broken by the universal wish to uplift the authority of truth and exalt human values.

The new leadership should examine the sometimes contradictory significance and applications of what we refer to as democracy, freedom, justice, love, peace, and humanity. The aim of these values will be to remove any impediments to establishing a true history, which will be based not on nation, race, or culture but rather on human beings in relation to themselves, their fellow human beings, and the universe.

Beyond the present catastrophes, and on the basis of this dynamic period where a new consciousness is emerging, this new type of leadership will enable the heart of truth to beat more deeply and respect the hopes and dreams of men and women for a deeper realization of the basic values of all people. For this to become a reality, each one of us has a mission to fulfill.

A psychiatrist, educator, and writer, Dr. Luis César Guedes Arroyo directs the Center for Education and Family Therapy in Argentina. He and his wife Liria, a psychologist and novelist, participated in the recent World Peace Blessing in Korea.

The Wonders of Nature

I was impressed by a passage from Rev. Moon's autobiography stating that everything in creation possesses life and should be given due consideration, regardless of how insignificant it may seem. After returning from Korea, one morning I went to the balcony and witnessed a little miracle, a "multiple vegetable birth," as over the next 35 minutes ten orchids opened before my eyes, petal by petal. Our whole family gathered to watch as the flowers enriched and spread joy in our home with their aroma and color as living beings.

- Liria Guedes

Call for a Renewed Focus on the MDGs

One prominent milestone for this new decade is the year 2015, identified by the United Nations as the year for the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The UN General Assembly will hold a high-level summit on MDG progress September 20-22, with six round-table discussions planned on a variety of issues, and UPF will participate in many of the interactive hearings with civil society to be held in the lead-up to the summit.

By general consensus, progress since the goals were announced in the year 2000 has been painfully slow. Broader partnerships are still needed in order to secure the needed technical, economic, and human resources. For this reason, many governments, religious bodies, and NGOs are joining a call to declare 2011 to 2020 the UN Decade of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding, and Cooperation for Peace.

"We have learned a great deal about what works, and where we need to focus our efforts," said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a recent report. He noted that the MDGs have triggered unprecedented efforts worldwide in the fight against poverty, hunger, disease, and environmental destruction, but stressed that much more is needed. "Evidence shows that the Goals gan be achieved, even in the poorest countries, but only when good policies and projects are backed by adequate resources."

NIGER – A Crown of Peace award was presented to former Primer Minister H.E. Cheiffou Amadou, president of the Economic, Social, and Cultural Council of Niger on December 14th.

USA – New Ambassadors for Peace were appointed at a December 4 gala at the Manhattan Center in New York. Entertainment was provided by the Lovin' Life Ministries band.

Sports and Peace

Athletic competitions have often sparked cooperation between North and South Korea. In the opening ceremonies of several Olympic Games, teams from North and South Korea marched together under the joint flag.

In a recent initiative, about 80,000 fans packed Pyongyang's Kim Il-sung Stadium to watch a friendly football match between visiting Brazilian club Atlético Sorocaba and the North Korean national team. The tightly-contested match, which ended in a draw, was part of North Korea's preparations for the upcoming World Cup in South Africa.

Atlético Sorocaba is based in Sao Paulo state and plays in the Campeonato Paulista league, where it won the 2008 league championship. The club is affiliated with UPF and sees athletic competition, and football in particular, as a way of dissolving barriers and building peace.

PERU – Rev. Dr. Orestes Sanchez, former president of UPF Peru, raised funds and gathered supporters to bring Christmas gifts to children in one of the poorest areas of Lima on December 23.

AUSTRIA – Christmas celebration concert in Vienna on December 20 featured Russian Orthodox, African, and American gospel music.

Parliament of the World's Religions

The Parliament of the World's Religions brought together 8,000 people from around the world from December 3-9, 2009 in Melbourne, Australia. The theme was "Making a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the Earth".

The Parliament invited all people of faith and spirit to encounter the vast and rich diversity of the world's religious and spiritual traditions and take part in over 450 events including keynote addresses, seminars, conferences, dialogues, performances, concerts and exhibitions.

Representing the Universal Peace Federation, Mr. Enrique Ledesma delivered a multimedia presentation about UPF and the work of its founder.

Water for Life Drive for Haiti

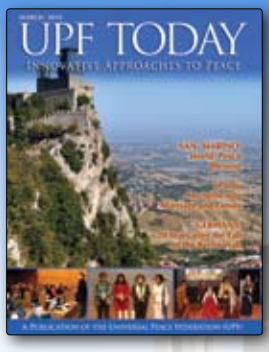
UPF solicited donations to help provide clean drinking water to the people of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, which was devastated by an earthquake on January 12. An initial $10,000 was sent to the World Food Programme to help them provide for daily needs. Since the earthquake struck, the World Food Programme has delivered the equivalent of more than 16 million meals, to nearly 600,000 people.

It is mobilizing large quantities of rice to distribute to populations — specifically women and children — in need in areas in and around Port-au-Prince.

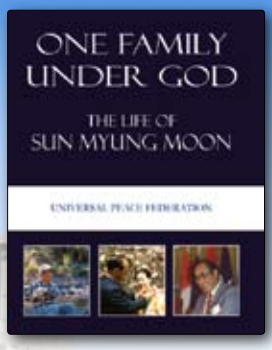
Women for Peace at the UN

Milestones achieved by women in peacebuilding will be highlighted in UPF's "Women for Peace" UN Parallel Event in conjunction with the 54th Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. The Nigerian Mission to the UN is co-hosting the event on March 9, 2010 on the theme: "Women's Movement for Real Change." The Chair of the program is Rev. Tsu-Wei Zoe Chang, President of the UN Women's Guild. Panelists include H.E. Mr. Hamid Al Bayati, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the UN; H.E. Mr. Palitha B. Kohona, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN; and Mme. Lale Apakan, wife of the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the UN.

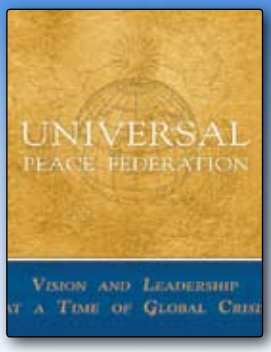
UPF PUBLICATIONS



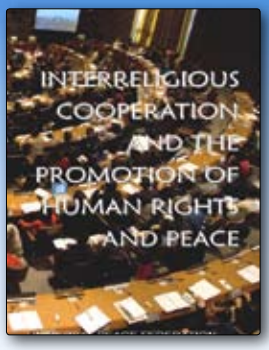
UPF TODAY: Did you know that UPF TODAY is now available in French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean as well as English?



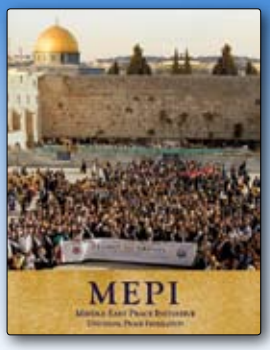
ONE FAMILY UNDER GOD: A brief biography of UPF Founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and a new collection of historical photos. The complementary volume to the popular DVD of the same title.



UPF VIEWBOOK: A 48-page catalog with full-color photos covering the full range of UPF's activities promoting world peace, the work of its twelve regional chapters and much more.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE: Texts of presentations at human rights conferences organized by UPF in Geneva, London, and New York. Papers by young leaders that can help promote human rights and dignity.



MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIATIVE: A booklet covering five years of work to bring together the family of Abraham. Learn about the efforts of more than 12,000 Ambassadors for Peace in service and peacemaking.

UPF 2010 CALENDAR

SOLAR / LUNAR CALENDAR 2010: The UPF Calendar 2010 features both solar and lunar dates, and highlights major UN observances and celebration days of the world's religions. Jan 2010-Feb 2011. 32 pages, full color.

UPF TODAY
INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

Universal Peace Federation
155 White Plains Road, Suite 222
Tarrytown, NY 10591, USA

TO PURCHASE THESE PUBLICATIONS GO TO: WWW.UPF.ORG/PUBLICATIONS

© 2010 Universal Peace Federation • upf.org