

ONE FAMILY UNDER GOD

Hyun Jin Moon

Speeches at the Global Peace Festivals 2008

One Family Under God

Global Peace Festivals

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Global Peace Festival

One Family Under God

A GPF Publication

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**INTRODUCTION
TO THE
GLOBAL PEACE FESTIVAL**

Background of the Global Peace Festival

A new short essay about the GPF goes here and lasts two pages

The development of the Global Peace Festival (GPF) is the brain-child of Dr. Hyun Jin Moon. In 2007, he travelled the world as a keynote speaker for the Universal Peace Federation and met with political, community and religious leaders throughout the world. He also made it a point to meet with many of the Ambassadors for Peace and other leaders for informal, private discussions.

In the course of these meetings, he heard from many of these leaders that, while they always appreciated the opportunity for networking and education, they were at the same time anxious to move on to substantive action when they returned back in their own nations. Ambassadors for Peace holding public office further advised him that they were in a position to take a leading role in developing such initiatives and offered to help bring the message of peace out of the conference room and into the public arena through a series of large-scale public events that came to be known as the Global Peace Festivals.

Encouraged by this call for local action, the first GPF was held in Seoul, Korea, in July 2007, a few days after the ILC conference earlier reported in this study. The GPF included series of service and impact projects that took place in partnership with students from several schools and colleges in the Seoul area. There were also a number of artistic and cultural events, culminating in a large open-air rally at the Seoul City Hall Plaza on July 7th, 2007

A large and enthusiastic crowd gathered for the four-hour pro-

gram, which featured many top-ranked entertainers in Korea, most giving their services gratis. There was a strong international representation, headed by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Methodist bishop who was once Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, and by HE Stanislau Shushkevich of Belarus, a respected senior statesman who had helped Mikhail Gorbachev bring an end to the Soviet Era and create the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

In his keynote address at that first GPF, Dr. Moon announced that he planned to take the Global Peace Festivals throughout the world to advance the vision of “One Family Under God.” He said that the objectives of the Global Peace Festivals would contribute towards the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals through a three-part agenda of interfaith cooperation, strengthening of marriage and family and working to create a culture of service.

Setting up a Global Peace Festival with its many components for audiences of tens of thousands of people is not easy task. The Global Peace Festivals would not be even possible without the generous support of the many partner organizations who have helped shoulder some of the organizational load.

For example, in Washington DC, which hosted a GPF in August 2008, an extensive series of GPF summer service projects were led not by the UPF directly but by the Points of Light Foundation and other partner agencies, including the Family Federation for World Peace.

These projects included a wide diversity of programs, including summer mentoring for children in the Boys and Girls Clubs programs, a citywide food drive for the Capital Area Food Banks, and environmental cleanup projects along the Anacostia River and in several of Washington DC’s poorest neighborhoods. Another effort involved the planting trees to commemorate youth killed in street and gang violence, a project that brought grieving mothers together to call for a stop to

the killings. All these events were part of a large-scale effort involving hundreds of volunteers and dozens of organizational partners.

In other cities around the world, the GPF service projects helped not only to galvanize interest in the main event, but also gave the GPF arms and legs to start making a real impact in each community. When Dr. Moon spoke at the Malaysia GPF in late October, he was able to recount an impressive array of service achievements:

In Paraguay, more than 10,000 high school and college students spent weeks cleaning almost every park in the capital city of Asunción. In Kenya more than 70,000 volunteers helped clean the polluted banks of the Nairobi River. In Mongolia, volunteers from Service for Peace and a dozen other agencies are working to make the city of Ulaanbaatar a place of beauty and harmony for all its residents.

The Global Peace Festivals are a work in progress. By the end of 2008, more than a million people were estimated to have participated in GPFs in over 20 nations and on every continent.

This book is offered as a review of the accomplishments of 2008 and the starting point for planning for the coming years.

New York, April 2009

ASUNCIÓN, PARAGUAY
JULY 1- 5, 2008

Asunción Commits to One Family Under God

An energetic crowd of 25,000 packed into Asunción's historic Club Olimpia Stadium burst into rowdy and prolonged cheers at the Global Peace Festival (GPF) tonight as Founder Dr. Hyun Jin Moon told them "Paraguay would play a leading role in building One Family Under God." The Paraguay GPF is the first of 17 planned throughout the world in 2008.



Faith leaders from many traditions opened the festival with a moving display of unity and affection, culminating with a call for God's blessing by Bishop Manuel Ferreira of Brazil. Ferreira, who leads an international Assembly of God congregation of several million, also announced that he was inviting the Global Peace Festival to come to Rio de Janeiro in December.

Interest reached a fever pitch as the limited supply of tickets

quickly ran out. When radio station Popular 103FM ran a contest to give away 1,000 tickets to people who brought a donation for poor children, more than 4,000 turned out and filled the streets around the station with cheerful teenagers hoping for the hottest ticket in town.



Thousands queue to donate at a local radio station



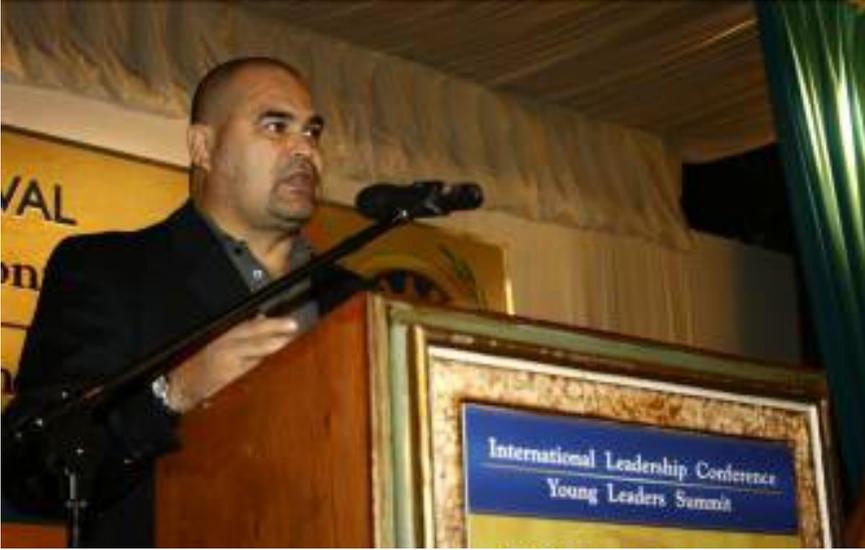
On July 3, at a mini-Festival held to coincide with the end of a city-wide cleanup and beautification effort, several thousand students from 70 city schools gathered to celebrate their work. The service project, sponsored by the Global Peace Festival and Asunción Mayor Evanhy de Gallegos was the first of its kind in the country.



Students from 70 Asunción schools joined in community service”

More than 250 international leaders from 80 nations – including eight former heads of state, 30 congressional leaders from South America, religious leaders, academics and youth leaders convened for a three-day International Leadership Conference and Young Leader’s.

The conference attracted more than half of the newly elected senators and deputies of the new Paraguayan government. “We are making progress towards the United Nations’ goal to create a culture of peace,” said UPF Secretary General Thomas Walsh.



Jose Luis Chilavert, welcomes the guests to the Leadership Conference

Jose Luis Chilavert, the extroverted soccer hero who scored more than 60 goals for Paraguay in international competition despite being a goalkeeper, welcomed the delegates. “We’re proud of being Paraguayan,” Chilavert said, “but we’re even prouder that you have come here to our country to kickoff the Global Peace Festival for 2008.”



View of the flag bearers ringing the stage at the Club Olimpia

The Club Olimpia finale had some of the hottest South American groups for a battle of the bands, with Argentine music sensation Alejandro Lerner topping the bill, with strong support from the Cuban rap group Chapa C, *Factoria* (Panama) and *Dalmata* (Dominican Republic).



Cuban Rap sensations "Chapa C"

“Una Familia bajo Dios, One Family Under God – yes or no?” Hyun Jin Moon challenged the crowd during his speech. “Before we are Paraguayans, or Americans, or Koreans; before we are Christian, Muslim or Jew, we must understand our fundamental identity as the sons and daughters of God,” Moon said. “We must look beyond our differences to the things that unite us and can bind us together.”



GPF Chair Hyun Jin Moon and Bishop Manoel Ferreira

The work of peace building continues long after the stadium finally fell silent, with GPF organizers announcing a significant investment into a character education and service initiative for the Asunción schools. “This is the start of a new chapter in Paraguay’s history,” said Thomas Field of the Victoria Company, one of the leading local backers of the Festival. “The time has come for this nation to shine,” said Senator Lillian Samenigo, the Festival’s organizing co-chair.

International Cooperation for Development

Dr. Lilian Graciela Samaniego González

Senator, Republic of Paraguay

In comparison with other parts of the world, Latin America seems to be one of the most peaceful regions on the planet. This perception contrasts, however, with the fact that it is one of the areas with the greatest gap in the distribution of wealth, poverty, and exclusion. The expectations generated by the democratic process that took place in the 1980s have not brought about substantial change in these situations of social exclusion and in consolidating the institutions that would allow citizens to deepen the full exercise of their rights.

Along with this, a combination of economic, social, and political factors contribute to increasing the sociopolitical tensions, and in many cases,, the institutions and political systems seem unable on their own to find the best way to generate democratic governance and stability.

In this way, in Latin America the concerns about an eventual warlike confrontation among nations have been displaced by a growing attention to the increase of internal conflicts. Such a situation involves the danger that internal crises will result in conflicts on a regional scale. Without a doubt, a regional escalation of conflict would be a considerable backward step in the possibilities for driving economic growth and development on the American continent.

As a consequence, the region will be able to resume the path toward peace only if it is able to give its societies an economic growth accompa-

nied by genuine human development. It is not possible to continue economic growth unless it is accompanied by a concrete improvement in the quality of life of Latin Americans. We cannot have a rich region whose citizens are poor. Inequality generates violence, and violence is the worst cancer that can afflict our societies.

In this regard, the best way to achieve sustainable development in our countries is through international cooperation. This collaboration should include the countries of Latin America themselves along with our North American neighbors and our European friends, with whom we are united by profound historical and cultural ties. Only through the joint efforts of South Americans, Central Americans, North Americans, and Europeans will the region achieve a sustainable economic growth over time.

In every case, the objective of the cooperation should be to promote human, economic, social, and political development while caring for the environment of the countries. To achieve this, our countries should establish bonds to:

- Provide decent living conditions for all the citizens of the region by meeting the basic needs of the population.
- Generate economic growth and genuine human development.
- Attract foreign investment as a mechanism for long-term growth.
- Defend and promote respect for human rights.
- Favor equal integration of women, by defending their rights to participate in all aspects of life in the nation.
- Defend democracy and citizen participation in politics.
- Guarantee transparency in the institutions of government.
- Promote education as a tool for sustainable development.
- Set up dialogue as the mechanism for peaceful conflict resolution.

Thus, it is necessary to promote communication among governments, parliaments, and governmental and intergovernmental organizations on the national and international levels. For each of these, cooperative networks need to be built to achieve a pluralist, multiethnic, and multicultural focus that includes women and youth in creating human development programs. The mission of these networks should be to promote both sustainable economic growth initiatives as well as programs that recognize peace as an inviolable public good.

The 21st century finds Latin America at a crossroads. The countries of the region can opt for isolationism and the quest for autocracy, seeking to protect themselves from the external world which is constantly changing. Nevertheless, such a posture will only bring increasing poverty and exclusion to nations that are already suffering from the blows of hunger and misery.

On the other hand, Latin Americans can recognize that cooperation among nations is the best way to confront uncertainties. This does not mean, as some may argue, giving up sovereignty and giving in to the disequilibrium that characterizes the current phase of globalization. Union does not weaken our people but rather makes them stronger.

Nevertheless, our countries should take into account that international cooperation cannot be a product of improvisation. In order to build solid ties with other nations, our governments should acknowledge collaboration as state policy. Uncoordinated accords bring poor results. Since governments and intergovernmental organizations generally have a situational, short-term vision, Latin American countries should design strategies that employ a structural approach to problems and are based on a long-term vision.

Sustainable human development envelops the seed of peace and prosperity in Latin America. Upon its correct instrumentation depends the viable growth of our people.

The Challenge for New Generations

Hon. Jose Manuel Echandi Meza

Deputy, Legislative Assembly, Costa Rica

I come from Costa Rica, a country which more than 60 years ago made a declaration of peace to the world and constitutionally eliminated its army. Peace is inherent in the being of the Costa Rican people. As a legislator, democratically elected by the Costa Rican people, I bring a brotherly embrace to all who have assembled here to give birth to peace.

Throughout my public life, God has allowed me to always be linked to organizations that continually fight for the respect and preservation of human rights. It has been my role to fight intensely for children, young people, and the citizenry in general, securing their human and civic rights in the face of the great changes that characterize our modern times. On this occasion I come in humility to learn, to compare ideas and thoughts, and to set forth for your consideration these reflections.

Our societies always have to remain alert and proactive in order to ensure that the youth of today and the new generations have the space they need and an absolute guarantee of their rights, not only theoretically but practically and concretely. Our society that is characterized by quantitative leaps in science and technology should provide for young people opportunities to gain not only knowledge about all these phenomena but also understanding, so they will not be manipulated by expertise and opportunity, which threaten to prevent our young people from successfully facing the future.

The free right to information, opportunities to study, and integrated growth can be restricted by the limited access to the incomparable advances that are developing in the world. This is a providential human right which we should defend and secure.

Education is thus a fundamental pillar of development. The formation of our minds, bodies, and spirits will ensure that we will follow the proper direction in dealing with underdevelopment. Let us cultivate ourselves, and the rest of what is necessary will be added to us.

Our beloved Latin America should be united and integrated in the differentiation and respect for each country's own realities. This is our governments' basic responsibility in promoting peace as the essential reality and the integral development of their inhabitations.

Peace, that goal so longed for by humanity in the course of history, begins with and within each one of us. Our internal peace, originating in the congruence of our thoughts, words, and actions and sustained in the optimal relationship of mind-body unity, should be a beacon which illuminates our existence as individuals, communities, countries, world, and the entire universe.

Faith is central among our youth of today. We hear many times how the young people are the generation of the future, but I invite you to take into account the youth today, because tomorrow they will be the adult population that we constitute today. One cannot say with certainty that our youth are lost, as we sometimes hear. Our youth, perhaps, have been asleep in a society that is at a high risk of decay and self-destruction.

It is the responsibility of this generation to open the doors for the real and concrete participation of the youth, the emerging leaders who want to serve and grow in harmony with the universe. Difficult times are approaching and have begun to reveal their tentacles: the petroleum crisis; climate change; food shortage; regional conflicts; rise in delinquency; dominance of self-interest instead of the common good on the part of nations, organizations, and people; large economic interests; etc. All of these have repercussions, unfortunately, on our people.

This is where our new leaders, the youth who have been shaped by great opportunities they see around them and long to avail themselves of

them, should raise the banner of service and willingness to assume responsibility for the development of our people. The advances of science and technology permit development. Each time we think about the wide vista of the world before our youth, the endorphins in our brain stimulate us to view the future with optimism.

Convocations like this one acquire relevance when people's thoughts and actions converge to strengthen the atmosphere of peace in the world, permitting dialogue and communication among groups which have until now been separated by egocentric visions, so that every one of us who wishes to achieve peace can express our ideas and consolidate our thoughts, words, and deeds in the quest of the lasting peace and level of economic, social, and human development which the inhabitants of our beloved region deserve and so eagerly await.

The responsibility is ours. The time is now. Tomorrow will be too late. It requires a holistic growth. The personal relationship between human beings and their Creator, regardless of their religious affiliation, is the key to success. Human beings empowered by all these marvelous capacities and skills can confront a world that has been inclined toward evil. Human beings, as the central figures of creation, are endowed by the Almighty to be guides and change agents of the signposts of history. Human beings can be responsible for their actions and stand up to be counted.

Being unique, causal, and integrated beings by nature, we can lead the initiatives for true peace and true love, bringing together all humanity as one family under God.

Promoting Trust and Transparency

Amb. John F. Keane

Former US Ambassador to Paraguay

A nation's development and peacefulness are affected by its outlook, degree of engagement with the world, and levels of interpersonal trust and transparency in its society. Those levels of interpersonal trust and transparency are outward manifestations of the fundamental value emphasized in these conferences: love.

Mutual trust is the foundation for all economic activity. But, what if we doubt the value of the currency? Without trust there will be no investment, no information sharing, and no economic growth. Do I trust my neighbor? My doctor? My pharmacist? The postman? The policeman? Do I have confidence that my trading partner will deliver the goods or services in the promised quality, quantity, and time? Do I trust my mayor, governor, or president to spend my tax contributions wisely and to give my child a good education? Do I trust the courts to enforce contracts? Is there a rule of law, or are the "favored" above the law?

A key ingredient of trust is transparency in personal behavior and governmental action, including finances, regulations, and contracts. A major focus of US assistance is transparency, and one of the most successful such programs started here in Paraguay more than five years ago, concentrating on transparency of municipal government finances.

Traditionally, Latin American countries have been isolationist. However, the free-trade agreements that have been in effect for a while have created jobs and prosperity in all the partners. Many Latin American countries have forged their own new trade links with each other and around the globe.

The expansion of commerce and free-trade agreements produces some losers along with the many winners. Any values-based vision recognizes that it is morally right for societies and governments to show compassion by helping those who have been hurt deal with the transition. Without such solidarity, the new paradigm of free trade will lose in the court of public opinion.

I feel confident that intensified integration efforts in Central America, the Andes, and the Southern Cone will advance their members' development in proportion to the depth and breadth of their trade, investment flows, knowledge sharing, mutual trust, law enforcement cooperation, and transparency. However, it is delusional to think that benefits can flow from integration efforts which are undermined by distrust and/or by criminals such as kidnappers, terrorists, drug traffickers, money launderers, smugglers, or document forgers who have safe havens in a neighboring country.

It is important that the US remain fully supportive of cooperative efforts. Among the many benefits, multilateral organizations offer smaller countries a sounding board enabling the US and other large countries to understand smaller countries better.

We all know that people respond much better to opportunity than to obligation, and much better to positive incentives than to fear. It is wondrous what people have achieved when opportunity is afforded, whether it is to study and do research, to perform in the arts, to compete in sports, or to build enterprises that create wealth and jobs for their communities and nations.

But people will not make the effort unless they trust that social institutions and government will reward individual merit more than personal or family connections. As we know, alienated youths are the fertile soil for conflict. A society's economic progress and to some extent its long-term political stability and peace depend in part upon its ability to generate gradually expanding levels of trust.

WASHINGTON DC, USA
August 6-9, 2008

A Great Day for Peace in Washington DC

Thousands of peacemakers came to celebrate peace on the lawn of the US Capitol Saturday at the Global Peace Festival USA. The gathering, billed as the largest interfaith and multicultural event ever held in Washington DC, was the second in a series of fifteen Global Peace Festivals this year, with the next planned for late August in Nairobi, Kenya.



“The great thing about the Festival is that it brings people together with neighbors from other faiths and cultures in a safe encounter,” said the Festival’s executive director Paul Murray, Pastor of the fast-growing church Apostolic Lighthouse Church in Baltimore. “When people see Muslims and Jews from Jerusalem and other trouble spots embracing each other in tears of forgiveness and reconciliation on the stage, they naturally reach out right away with those of other faiths in the crowd.”



Rabbi Izhak Bardea, Israel, joins the Interfaith peace ceremony

Several speakers reminded the crowd of the parallels with another great gathering in Washington 45 years ago, when Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his immortal message, “I have a dream.” Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, one of King’s closest aides during the sixties, said the time had come to fulfill King’s dream of creating the beloved community.

“We must become the ‘Joshua Generation’ Martin envisioned,” Lowery said, “leading the world into a promised land as One Family Under God.” Gospel superstars Yolanda Adams and David Phelps – with seven Grammys between them – were among the many entertainers keeping the crowd in a festive mood, with additional performances from the 500-voice Global Peace choir and a strong contingent of rising local youth groups singing the Global Peace Festival theme song “Where Peace Begins”



A crowd of many thousands listen to the keynote address



Bolivian Tinkas Champions Brotherhood of Jaya

The Festival also celebrated the power of service to transform people and communities. “Service is just another way of saying “I love you,” said Rev. Mark Farr of the Points of Light Institute, a lead festival partner. The Institute, along with the Universal Peace Federation,

Boys and Girls Clubs of Washington DC and more than 242 partner agencies organized a recent citywide day of service. A “Food for Peace” helped fill the shelves of the Capitol Area Food Bank, which recently revealed to the *Washington Post* that thousands of families were at newly at risk of hunger. Festival goers brought food from as far away as Chicago.



Above: Hon. Manoel Ferreira, Congressman and Brazilian bishop, announces upcoming GPF in Brasilia.



GPF Founder Dr. Hyun Jin Moon delivers the keynote address. “America must realize her blessings are for the whole world,” he said

The Joshua Generation

Dr. Joseph E. Lowery

President Emeritus, The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, USA

I bring you greetings today on behalf of ten of Dr. Martin Luther King's fellow laborers in the nonviolent, direct action movement that was launched 45 years ago in the spring of 1963. Among us are the Hon. Rev. Walter Fauntroy, Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, and Dr. Fred L. Shuttlesworth. We call ourselves the Martin Luther King, Jr., Council of Elders.

We held a press conference on July 2 of this year to remind the world that it has been 45 years since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave the world his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech, during that now "Historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom."

It has also been 40 years since Martin told us a day before he was assassinated: "I've been to the mountain top and I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you but we as a people will get to the Promised Land!" When he said "we as a people," he meant not just black people or white people, not just Jews or gentiles, but people of every race, creed, ethnicity, and color on this planet.

We declared, therefore, that 40 years is long enough for people of every race, creed, and color on this planet to wander in the wilderness of hate, terror, and estrangement from one another. We appealed to people of courage and conscience that we become "the Joshua Generation" that Martin envisioned leading the world into a Promised Land where we as One Family under God would work together to end the barbarism of war, the insanity of racism, and the scourge of poverty on our watch.

I have come here today to thank Dr. Hyun Jin Moon and this unprecedented interfaith coalition for putting on this Global Peace Festival

right here in our nation's capital. Together, let us go forth from this place and this time as a "Joshua Generation" of God's family to do for the entire world on our watch in the 21st century what the nonviolent warriors convened by Dr. King did for America and the world on their watch in the 20th century.

We pledge to stand with you and beside you as we, together, take this message to every corner of the earth in the months and years ahead and as we enlist in ever widening numbers people of faith and goodwill in our effort to demonstrate innovative models of cooperative action that concretely advances the work of reconciliation and peace.

A Million Acts of Service & Kindness

Ms. Miriam Parel

*Vice President for Strategic Partnerships, Points of Light and Hands On Network,
USA*

In this International Leadership Conference we have delved deeply into the vision and the ideals of service. We have created a nurturing environment for our common values and hopefully a safe environment to discuss our disagreements.

In my brief talk today I want to tell how this vision and its ideals come to fruition through the Points of Light partnership with UPF, and I'm going to challenge every one of you to participate.

But first, let me briefly tell you about Points of Light and Hands On Network. Points of Light was created by President Bush, the father, as a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonreligious organization to promote volunteering and service. In 2007, Points of Light merged with the Hands On Network, and it now has 370 affiliates in the US and nearly 30 abroad.

The vision of Points of Light and Hands On Network is that “One day every person will discover the power to make a difference, creating healthy communities in vibrant democracies around the world.” At the core of our values is citizen action, the building of civic infrastructures, and mobilizing people through impact campaigns. We inspire, equip, and mobilize people to take action and change the world.

And that’s what we did in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which displaced more than 1,000,000 people from the Gulf of Mexico in 2005. Help to Katrina victims came from all over the world; even poor coun-

tries and poor individuals were remarkably generous. But it was through our partnership with the Universal Peace Federation that the Points of Light Foundation had the most impact.

Working with 37 affiliates, we recruited nearly 180,000 volunteers who worked with hundreds of thousands of evacuees fixing and rebuilding homes and helping families get a new life, children enroll in new schools, and parents get new jobs.

More importantly, our joint work helped communities, through planning, training, and exercises, prepare for the next disaster that we know will come. We even created a new affiliate in Selma, Alabama, under Rev. Carl Rawls' leadership.

And our partnership continues. The Global Peace Festival in Washington, DC, organized by many groups, is bringing people together to celebrate the human family, promote peace, encourage interfaith cooperation, and call citizens to service.

We want to ensure that this is not about a single day but long-term change. So here comes the challenge: a call to "A Million Acts of Service and Kindness." You are invited to be part of this campaign. You're invited to join forces to build a movement of kindness and service that seeks to simply live for the sake of others and make a difference.

An act of service is taking part in organized acts of service to others: you can help build a house, feed the elderly, or organize a blood drive at your church.

An act of kindness is a less-organized activity but just as meaningful — or more. If you have had a fight with someone, take the first step to reconcile with that person. Or call someone you've been meaning to tell you love or are grateful for, but keep putting it off. Or even do that home chore you've been avoiding — and do it gratefully.

USA Keynote Address

Hyun Jin Moon

August 9, 2008

It is my pleasure and honor to stand with you today in front of the U.S. Capitol with the memorials of great Americans like Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln bearing witness to our efforts. It is a breathtaking view and I feel we stand on hallowed ground, where the past and the present can align to build a greater tomorrow for all Americans and all of our neighbors throughout the world.

This mall commemorates the sacrifices of men and women who served the cause of freedom and paid the ultimate price on foreign shores. The world owes a great debt to this nation and the brave and selfless young Americans who were willing to oppose any foe and pay any price for the American dream and its founding principles.

These grounds have also been the venue for that rare brand of oratory that stirs men and women's souls and moves their hearts. Just forty eight years ago, newly elected President John F. Kennedy challenged all Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." He launched a bold new peace initiative, the Peace Corps, inspiring subsequent generations with a culture of global service.

Three years later, at the height of the civil rights struggle, a young, courageous Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his passionate speech, "I Have A Dream." He yearned for the day when the children of all races would be judged "not by the color of their skin

but by the content of their character.” Citing the Declaration of Independence, “that all men are created equal and entitled to inalienable rights endowed by their Creator,” King said that the struggle for civil rights was not just a Black struggle for equality but a timeless ideal rooted in the American Dream.

Thirteen years later a then relatively unknown Korean spiritual leader delivered a message to more than 300,000 Americans, declaring that the American Dream was not a dream for America alone, but for all the people of the world. That man was none other than my father, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon.

I would like to share with you a prophetic statement he made that night over three decades ago:

“The United States of America, transcending race and nationality, is already a model of the unified world. She must realize that the abundant blessings which God has been pouring upon this land are not just for America, but are for the children of God throughout the world. Upon the foundation of world Christianity, America must exercise her responsibility as a world leader and the chosen nation of God.”

The Greatest Dream of all

As a proud son, I am filled with deep emotion as I stand here before you today. I was seven years old and in the audience when my father delivered this prophetic message. I believe my life, as well as that of my family, has come full circle as we gather once again on this hallowed ground to awaken this nation to fulfill its providential calling and lead the world to peace.

For, I can tell you as surely as the sun will rise, that those words did not fall upon deaf ears that historic night long ago, but stirred the

hearts and the imagination of a new generation of leaders, dedicated to realizing a truly universal and global expansion of the American Dream. We are heirs to that prophecy.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are at a crossroads. Throughout the world and at home, there is a growing anxiety in the air, stemming from one crisis after another. The global “war against terror” has fundamentally changed the way we, Americans, live. We are in a constant state of uncertainty, compounded by an economic downturn, rising energy and food costs and the collapse of our financial institutions. Add to that the massive devastation from natural disasters in New Orleans, Florida and California and it seems all the power and might that America can muster will not keep us safe.

There are those who might be looking towards the presidential elections in November to fix the problems of our nation and the world. However, the solution to our national and global quandary cannot be solved by one man, party or administration. It is far too complex to be addressed in the same old political, economic, diplomatic or even military manner of the past.

We definitely need change but not for the sake of change. The world needs leadership and America could provide it if it had a universal vision which could inspire and unite the human family.

One Nation Under God to One Family Under God.

Let us be bold and dare tonight to dream big! Let us dream the greatest dream of all! I want to share with you a new vision for America. It is a vision rooted in our nation’s founding principles, a vision that exalts the ideal of “one NATION under God” and then takes it one step further into a greater, more universal ideal, of “One FAMILY under God.” It is a dream for all Americans and all

people of faith. And most of all, I firmly believe that it is God's vision for humanity.

Let us reflect, for a moment, on the birth of our nation in 1776, when thirteen "rag-tag" colonies announced their independence from the colonial yoke of Great Britain. It must have been a moment of great pain, anxiety and exhilaration, for those who signed the Declaration of Independence knew very well what their fate would be if they had failed.

The amazing thing about the Declaration is the deeply spiritual rhetoric and the clear reference to God, or the Creator, as the true source of human dignity and intrinsic rights. I believe that same Declaration of Independence remains the most important document of our modern era. Although it was a secular document, it was leavened with spiritual undertones which evoked a prayerful yearning to establish a new land committed to principles upon which "One Nation" could be created "under God."

Thus, it carried a profound spiritual authority and became the basis, I believe, of a new covenant with God. That covenant was rooted in the biblical promise first made to Israel in the book of Isaiah. True to that prophecy, America invited all of God's children to come and worship Him according to the dictates of their conscience.

Although predominantly a Christian nation, America was the first nation on earth committed to universal spiritual values. It was the first nation to champion religious freedom and human rights, regardless of denomination, faith, nationality, ethnicity, and race.

America became a pluralistic melting pot, representing how the world could live in harmony under a national vision rooted in the

sovereignty of God. Of course, there have been times when America has not fully lived up to its founding ideals. But at its best, America represents the hopes and aspirations of all God-affirming people around the world.

God's Dream and the Christian Mission

The power of this vision goes all the way back to the very beginning of human history. Just as we have big aspirations and hopes for our children, so too did God have great expectations for humanity.

God wanted His children to create a true family which could be the school of true love, true life and true lineage. It would have been God's family where He would dwell as the true parent of all mankind. Yet, this dream was not realized. And therefore, God had waited patiently throughout human history, often in agony and lamentation, for someone to realize His unfilled dream.

2,000 years ago, a young carpenter's son, Jesus Christ, went beyond the traditions of his own people, referring to God as his Father and embracing all humanity as his brothers and sisters. Jesus taught a selfless, compassionate love, the need for individual spiritual responsibility, the promise of universal salvation, and the need to create the family of God.

Tragically Jesus' life was cut short and the new wine he was to bring was unfortunately poured into less-than-new wine skins. Yet, his legacy and message lived on through the foundation of world Christianity.

It wasn't until the modern era with the founding of the United States that the true, universal spirit of Christianity took root. Instead of espousing any one faith or denomination, Americans have en-

joyed the freedom to follow the dictates of their conscience, with the hope of creating a nation united under the sovereignty of God.

This became the basis of the American dream in building “One Nation under God.” The dream to create “One Family under God” did not end with Jesus. It remained latent within the Christian message, waiting for someone to rekindle Jesus’ universal and global mission.

My father, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon, has devoted his entire life to the fulfillment of that mission. He uprooted his family and invested thirty four years of his life to awaken America to its providential calling. To my father, the dream of building “One Family under God” is not just the dream of one man, one woman or one family but the dream of all humanity and, most of all, the dream of God.

A True Family is the Model for Peace

The message whose time has come for this age is “One Family Under God.”

Why a family? First, the family is universal. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality and religion, we are all members of families. Secondly, the family represents the most intimate of relationships. When we feel close to someone, we use familial terms, saying “that person is like my father, my mother, my brother, my sister.” In the family we learn to love humanity in all its richness and diversity.

Before we call ourselves Christian, Muslim, or Jew, before we see ourselves as black, white, or Asian, before we identify ourselves as Korean, Brazilian or American, we are first and foremost the eternal sons and daughters of God. We are all members of His eter-

nal family. This is the starting point to realize the dream of creating “One Family under God,” one family at a time.

Service Uplifts Human Dignity

Ladies and Gentlemen, last month at the Global Peace Festival in Paraguay more than 10,000 high school and college students spent several weeks cleaning every park in the capital city of Asunción. Senators, congressmen, priests and community leaders were astonished, saying this level of public service had never been part of their culture, especially among the young.

I am pleased to tell you that here in Washington DC, the Global Peace Festival has also been spearheading a remarkable service effort. Over the past few weeks, schools have been cleaned and painted, children have been mentored and parks and playgrounds made safe. We’ve received generous donations of food – enough to feed over a thousand families. To all who participated in these acts of service and kindness, and in particular to the Points of Light Institute, Boys and Girls Clubs, Service for Peace and the other organizations who pulled it together, I want to say a heartfelt “Thank You!”

There is something deeply spiritual in serving others. It is not something we should do only for a day, a month or even a year. It has to become a way of life. When living for the sake of others becomes a habit, we come to see the true value God places on all human beings.

Building upon America’s great tradition of volunteerism, I’d like to see our nation’s faith-based and community partners joining with those of other countries to establish a Global Peace Corps that will be more than just an American effort. Tonight, each of us can start toward this ideal through our own contributions to the Million Acts

of Service and Kindness. Living for others is an important step toward the dream of “One Family under God.”

Imagine if young people from enemy nations worked side by side in service. Any misunderstandings and hatred that existed would fade away as they sweat, cry and laugh together with a common purpose and cause.

Peace Among the World’s Religions

Another goal of the Global Peace Festival is to celebrate the common universal values shared by all faiths.

As you’ve seen this evening, through the Universal Peace Federation’s interfaith gatherings in the Middle East, Christians, Muslims and Jews are rediscovering their common heritage in Abraham. They are realizing that they have more in common than the issues that currently divide them, and that they truly are brothers and sisters of faith longing equally for peace and reconciliation.

We have discovered that relations between faith traditions are not about mere toleration of one another's prayers and rituals. A true interfaith experience is a celebration of the core principles that bind all God-affirming people together as one family. When we remember our common origin and our common heritage, our eyes open to the obvious truth that all people, regardless of creed, race or culture, are indeed “One Family under God.”

America, as a nation of interfaith ideals, must now fulfill its destiny of leading the world toward peace. Working with the United Nations, I propose that the United States second the motion that my father made in the UN to establish an Inter-religious Council of faith leaders similar to the Security Council.

Many great minds agree that the greatest threat to global peace and future development is religious narrow-mindedness. This new UN council could be the forum for all faiths to find common ground and lead the peace process.

In addition, I believe the UN needs to recognize the centrality of God in the discussion on human rights. I propose the UN Charter be modified to include the idea that humanity is “endowed by the Creator with inalienable rights” similar to the US Declaration of Independence. Without a spiritual root in our common heritage, fundamental human rights will continue to be abused.

Call to action: Looking Ahead

Ladies and Gentlemen, today at the US Capitol we are demonstrating a model of interfaith harmony and declaring a common commitment to establish “One Family under God.” This initiative will be extended to all 50 states in October and to every continent where the Global Peace Festivals will be convened this year and over the coming years.

We must revive America’s founding vision and expand that dream onto a global stage through the universal vision of “One Family under God.” It should be the clarion call of our age. As my father said in a recent Peace Message, the time has come “to tear down the man-made walls of race, culture, religion and country, and establish the peaceful, ideal world of God’s cherished desire.”

The power of one human family united, can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world---from the strife and poverty of Africa, to the conflict in the Middle East, and the final remnant of the Cold War on the Korean Peninsula.

As Americans and global citizens, standing upon this hallowed ground, under the steadfast gaze of our forefathers and those who paid the ultimate price on the altar of Freedom, let us make a solemn pledge to expand the American dream and lead the world to peace through the vision of “One Family under God.”

Then, as surely as light overcomes the darkness, an era of peace and prosperity will emerge from the depths of distrust and hatred both at home and in the far corners of our world.

Together, we can dare to dream the greatest dream of all! Let us own the dream to create “One Family under God.”

May God bless you and your family, and may God bless this great nation of America!

Thank you very much.

NAIROBI, KENYA
August 28-31, 2008

Prime Minister Odinga Welcomes the Global Peace Festival to Kenya

The Prime Minister of Kenya, the Hon Raila Odinga MP and his wife Ida Odinga, joined by an international delegation that included seven former heads of state and over 120 members of parliament, spiritual leaders and representatives of civil society were warmly welcomed by a crowd of over 10,000 enthusiastic Kenyans to the Global Peace Festival (GPF) in Nairobi last Sunday, August 31st. The GPF is the third this year in a series that started in Asuncion, Paraguay and Washington DC, US.



Prime Minister Raila Odinga and his wife Ida introduce UPF Co-Chair Dr. Hyun Jin Moon to a large crowd of Kenyan youth and families at the Global Peace Festival in Nairobi



“This is an important day for Kenya and for Africa,” said Odinga. “It is a new beginning in the quest for our nation to be once again known as a nation of peace and security.” The Prime Minister came to office earlier this year after a historic power-sharing agreement with political rival President Mwai Kibaki ended a period of post-election violence.

“The Universal Peace Federation and the Global Peace Festival are doing great things in Kenya,” Odinga said. “Just yesterday, they mobilized thousands of young Kenyans to start cleaning out the Nairobi River. We long for the day when our nation can again be proud of this river, which could provide water to millions.”

Nairobi River Clean Up

Today, the Nairobi River is unbelievably foul, virtually an open sewer. Repulsed by the thought of wading into the raw sewage and stench to pull pick up sodden garbage and put it into bags, most citi-

zens of the city have long been holding their noses and looking the other way. As a service to the Kenyan capital, the Global Peace Festival organized community-wide cleanup efforts in ten different locations throughout the month of August. Local activists said they plan to continue the project indefinitely.



Volunteers clean up a section of the Nairobi River Bank in Embakassa, one of Nairobi's poorest neighborhoods

Some of the clean-up crews encountered the bodies of infant children, apparently put into the river by slum dwellers without the means to afford proper burial. Others reported a stream of unlicensed dump trucks pouring garbage directly into the river. “More than hard work will be needed,” said project coordinator Edwin Plekhanov. “We need a complete change of heart in our leaders and ourselves.”



The river has been a symbol of civil neglect



One section of the river reclaimed from the filth

Local MP Hon. Ferdinand Waititu promised his Embakassa constituency that he would work to bring the resources and the political support needed. “This is an important development,” said David Anderson, a fellow MP visiting from England. “We elected officials must support the aspirations of our people.”

International Leadership Conference

Anderson was among a group of more than 100 Kenyan and international participants in the International Leadership Conference hosted by the Universal Peace Federation, principal sponsor of the Global Peace Festival. “We are presenting a new, values-based approach to leadership,” said UPF Africa Secretary General Mwalagho Kililo, “and we are finding that many of our delegates see this as a way out of the swamp of corruption, selfishness and inefficiency that has plagued our nations for years.”



The 120 ILC participants included former heads of state and many current members of parliament

Main Festival at the Jomo Kenyatta Center

Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, co-chair of the UPF and founder of the Global Peace Festival Initiative delivered the GPF keynote address. Dr. Moon, who is the third son of the international spiritual leaders and peacemakers Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, urged Kenyans to take pride in their nation and Africa's role as the cradle of civilization.



Dr. Hyun Jin Moon asking an excited crowd if they are ready to dream the biggest dream of all, the dream of creating One Family Under God

“The message of ‘One Family under God’ should be a clarion call for this age,” he said. “The power of one human family united, can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world – from the conflict in the Middle East, the remnant of the Cold War in Korea and poverty, disease and civil strife in Africa.”



A young acrobatic team spell out P-E-A-C-E during the GPF entertainment



A local choir sings the GPF Anthem "Where Peace Begins" in Kiswahili



UPF's Thomas Walsh and Chung Hwan Kwak join Dr. Moon and The Hon. Raila and Betty Odinaga on-stage celebration to conclude the GPF

A Commitment to Reconciliation

Hon. Raila Odinga

Prime Minister, Kenya

I am very happy to welcome you to Nairobi, because I know that you bring a message of peace as we are emerging from a crisis. My wife Ida and I have been to the Universal Peace Federation conferences in Korea, and we feel that we are among friends. Events like this provide a reprieve for our people from the threat of conflict.

We have lived through a very trying period in Kenya in which over 1,500 people lost their lives and hundreds of thousands of people became displaced after the disputed presidential elections. The security forces also unleashed a lot of violence. “Shoot to kill” orders were given.

We had lived in an illusion that we were a united country. We had worn the façade of unity, but when this mask was removed we saw another face of Kenya. Kenyans came to the precipice and looked down into the abyss, but we didn’t like what we saw. So we stepped back and decided to talk to each other. We realized that if nothing was done, the country was going to disintegrate. We thought of other countries where elections were disputed and ended up being divided, and we said that Kenya is greater than all of us.

Today, we are back in business — but not business as usual. We know that to stay united and prosperous we must change in fundamental ways, and we have begun that process. We need to recognize and respect each other and reconcile our society that was torn apart.

In our time of trouble, we were helped by our African brothers and the international community. World leaders who were concerned about

the stability and security of Kenya called me, and several came to Nairobi to talk to both President Mwai Kibaki and myself. Through the initiative of the African Union, a panel of eminent persons led by the former Secretary-General of the UN, Dr. Kofi Annan, came to Kenya. We set up a team consisting of four people from each side to sit and negotiate.

At one point we were completely deadlocked, so Kofi Annan suspended the talks and consulted with President Kibaki and myself. Neither side was willing to make concessions beyond a certain point.

At that moment, considering people's lives and security and thinking of the unity of our country, I decided that it was time to make compromises. The importance of being the first to take a lead in harmonizing was one of the valuable lessons that I learned when I participated in the leadership conferences in Seoul, Korea.

So I said, "Look, for the sake of the country I'm willing to move this part, and I invite President Kibaki to move this part." Ultimately he agreed, and we met somewhere in the middle. It was like the cardinals meeting to elect a pope: the first time we came out, the people saw black smoke and they knew that the pope had not been elected; we went back, and when we came out people saw white smoke and chairs arranged for signing the accord. Some people on both sides were not happy with the agreement, but it was the best we could come up with and we said it was a good thing for Kenya.

We agreed to form a grand coalition government with a 50-50 power sharing. In the cabinet, 50 percent are my ministers and 50 percent are from President Kibaki's side. We share power equally, with constant consultations. We think that this is the only way to talk, considering the root causes of our nation's ailments. Such a coalition is the first in the country and indeed in Africa. We need every bit of our creativity, generosity, and patience to make sure that we stay united.

The most important key to peace is rapid economic recovery to offset the damage that resulted from the violence. Businesses were destroyed, the planting of crops was suspended, unemployment soared, and the price of food rose.

In August I convened the first quarterly Prime Minister's conference to transform the relationship between the government and the private sector and in the process transform the economy and the lives of Kenyans. We are building a seamless relationship between the government and the private sector economy to lift this economy.

I hope that participants in the Global Peace Festival will take this message of a new Kenya to your contacts. We have a collective commitment to find solutions. Despite the terrible trauma of bloodletting, we have shown that we are ready to go beyond boundaries, cultures, and traditions to restore peace.

The Global Peace Festival motto of One Family under God shows that before we are a member of one nation, tribe, or political faction, we are first and foremost children of the same Creator. Membership in the human family makes us brothers and sisters. Survival, prosperity, and peaceful coexistence for us all require that we never forget this.

I respect the UPF and Dr. Hyun Jin Moon for his enthusiasm in raising up young people in public service. I know that he is spearheading activities designed to bring peace by appealing to a generation of young leaders who have the ability to serve others. Left on their own without proper guidance, youth expend their energies doing things which might be self-centered. Character education and the belief that young people can transcend any shortcomings to serve peace are essential.

We are joining hands to clean the Nairobi River, with Kenyans of all walks of life participating. I was told that the Han River in Seoul was once as polluted as the Nairobi River but now, through conscious effort, it is a clean river, and I have seen it. We intend to make Nairobi that clean.

Touching People's Hearts

Mrs. Ida Odinga

Chair, League of Women Voters, Kenya

About 30 years ago I lived very close to the Nairobi River. My little son used to sneak into the river then and come back with small fish in a bottle and ask me to feed them and keep them for him so that he could have them as pets.

Today if you go to the Nairobi River, you don't even want to touch the water, never mind the fish. The fish are not there. Therefore, the Universal Peace Federation project of mobilizing young people to clean the Nairobi River was fantastic. It was a very good idea because young people own the activity. They know that the future belongs to the young people, and they know that unless they do something now to clean the river and make sure it remains clean, they have no future. Therefore, this was a very important thing in the lives of the young people and Kenya as a whole.

This Nairobi River had become a point where criminals used to gather, and they kept other people away from the river. Of course, criminal activities went on around the river. Since the river had become very dirty, criminals knew that people of good faith and character would not visit the river. Thus it became important to clean that river so that the criminal activities that took place along the river could be removed.

What are these criminal activities? There's the brewing of illicit brews; there is the planting of certain plants. Also, people hide near the river because they know even the police don't want to go there. So, by cleaning up the river, you are not just cleaning the river but also cleaning up the environment, cleaning up criminal activities, and making people come out into the light and become better people.

The Global Peace Festival showed us the way. It awakened the young people and gave them an alternative to sitting around idle or doing negative things. It showed the young people that the world belongs to them. The Nairobi River belongs to them. Nairobi, the city, belongs to them. They feel proud to go and work for these things. It has given them an idea of what they can do with themselves.

The Global Peace Festival came at the right time in Kenya. We had been through a very difficult period in the months of January and February, following the contested elections where people came out to protest. They protested violently, and many people lost their lives. Many people were maimed, and property was destroyed. Most of these activities were carried out by the young people.

When the Global Peace Festival came to Nairobi, it made the young people reflect on their lives. They reflected on what they had just done and had a change of mind. They said, “We want peace. It is only through peaceful coexistence that we will be able to survive.”

We saw those 30,000 young people from different ethnic backgrounds and different religious backgrounds coming together with one destiny — recognizing the importance of being Kenyans and the importance of belonging to one family under God. They came together and said, “We want to promote peace and improve our environment.”

In Kenya we had taken peace for granted. We thought that wars and uprisings were activities reserved for our neighbors in Rwanda, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan, and so forth. When conflict visited us at home in Kenya, we realized we were in trouble.

Having been Ambassadors for Peace for a long time was very useful to us. My husband and I looked back at the values that we had learned through this organization, and we realized that we are the ones who are in the right place at the right time to lead people into reconciliation and peacebuilding.

To begin with, I was shocked at the conflict. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. I tried to say prayers many times, and many times I got lost in my prayers. I asked my friends to come and pray with me. I asked my friends to pray for the nation, but it was so difficult. I couldn't see an end to this thing. Life had just come to an end. It was the end of our nation. It was the end of our people. It was the end of us.

I took a trip to one of the areas that was badly affected. I was perhaps the first person to go to this place. I visited the people whose homes had been burned and who, as a result, had to move into a church compound. I visited the people who had been hurt. Most of them had been shot in various parts of their bodies. I also visited a morgue and could see what had happened.

One particular scene that touched my heart was a young mother who apparently was killed as she was running away. At the time when she was killed, she had a baby tied onto her back and was holding the hand of another one. I don't know what happened to the child whose hand she was holding, but the bullet went through the mother and through the baby on her back and killed both of them instantly. The two bodies were removed to the morgue and kept there. When I saw that, I felt hurt in my heart, and I knew we had to do something and do it immediately.

We wanted to be leaders, but you cannot take pride in being a leader of the dead. You want to be a leader of the living. You want to be a leader of happiness, leading people who are happy and are at peace.

So what we learned from the Universal Peace Federation came in handy. What we learned is that we now have to change and talk to people. And I went and talked with people from all backgrounds. I told them, "This is not the Kenya we want. We want a peaceful Kenya. Let's get back to where we should be."

Sometimes I've wondered, if Hon. Odinga had not attended these meetings and not been a part of this institution, what would have hap-

pened to Kenya? The principles that we learned here, the principles of being one family under God, actually guided us. They became the major principles that guided us during this very difficult time. The principle of putting other people before yourself and putting other people's interests before your personal interests was very dominant and useful to us at this particular time, because many people who came out to fight may have thought they were fighting for him. But he said, "You don't have to demonstrate like that. If you want to demonstrate, carry a twig, carry a wet handkerchief and wave it. That is demonstration. Don't take a weapon and hurt your fellow Kenyans."

I prayed a lot. I prayed a lot because I knew it was only God's guidance that could keep us together. It was not easy.

In the past I sometimes talked on national radio raising funds for people who had been affected by floods, and I gave my personal phone number. This personal number that I had given out at that earlier time was used during this time. Everywhere where there was trouble, people would call me at all times, even in the middle of the night. I never switched off my phone. They would tell me, "We have a problem here. We're being attacked. Something is happening."

I used the same phone to alert the police, to alert the authorities, to tell them exactly where they needed to go to help, and so forth. So it was not an easy thing. And you could hear conflict in the background as people talked about what was happening. Some people would say, "I want to tell you what's happening but I have no money." I had to look for a way of sending them air time so that they could call me back.

For some people, even just talking to me was a relief. When people are in trouble, sometimes it is not enough just to go there and talk to them, but listening to them is a critical part of the healing. Some of them just talk to you; you let them talk and you listen. In the end they said, "Thank you very much for listening to me." That's what they needed.

Some people in UPF wrote to me. They sent me e-mails. They prayed with me, and believed in me. Some called me. This was a real source of encouragement. It helps you to focus once again when you feel you are lost.

GPF Kenya Keynote Address

Hyun Jin Moon

August 31, 2008

Mr Prime Minister, honored guests, friends, family, ladies and gentleman. Welcome to the Global Peace Festival in beautiful Nairobi, Kenya!

JAM-bo! Ka-RI-bu! [Greetings! Welcome!]

Thank you for coming and participating in this historic peace movement. It is a great honor and pleasure to be with you today.

I believe everyone who has the opportunity to come to the African continent falls in love with her primeval beauty: From the majestic falls of Lake Victoria to the snow-capped peaks of Mt. Kilimanjaro; from the great plains of the Serengeti to the jungles of the Congo; from the parched desert of the Kalahari to the oasis of the Okavango Delta.

The diversity of Kenya's landscape and the extraordinary creatures that inhabit it, and the richness of her natural resources has made this region of Africa a veritable Garden of Eden which could resuscitate this entire continent and bring forth a blossoming of an African Renaissance.

Today, we are celebrating a vision of peace and prosperity for Africa at the Global Peace Festivals here in Kenya and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These two nations at the center of Africa represent the French and English speaking nations of this

continent. Let us take a moment to welcome our French-speaking brothers and sisters to the Global Peace Festivals in Africa!

The origin of the Human Family and a vision of Peace

Ladies and gentlemen, scientists and anthropologists tell us that Africa is the cradle of human life. Research now suggests that the human genome, carrying the genetic material of all 6.5 billion people inhabiting this earth, can be traced back to a single mother and that she lived right here in Africa!

Therefore, it is fitting that we have come back to humanity's birthplace to break away from our collective history of war and conflict, and to set up a new paradigm for peace and prosperity for all mankind.

What is most important now is not how and where the human family began millions of years ago, but rather how, where and when the human family will at last come together to live in peace. If we can see each other as one family, beyond our differences, then we would soon end the scourges of poverty, tribalism, racism, corruption, pollution, and war as well as all the other ills of our modern world.

However, we need to be bold and break new ground in our search for peace and prosperity if we are to go beyond the failures of our past. We only need to look back to the last century to recognize the futility of tackling the world's problems through the same old military, economic, political, diplomatic and scientific solutions.

Dealing with only the symptoms of global crisis and conflict and ignoring the root cause will not work. Conflict begins within the hearts and consciences of men and women. That is why even the grand vision behind the League of Nations and, later, the United Na-

tions was yet unable to prevent the 20th century from being the bloodiest era in human history.

The world is in dire need for a new vision of peace for the 21st Century. Unlike the secular visions of the past, a vision of peace for this new millennium should be a spiritual vision, rooted in time-enduring values and principles which come from God. I believe that vision is “One Family under God!” and I have come here to share that vision with all of you today.

God’s Dream and the Christian Mission

The vision of one family under God goes all the way back to the very beginning of human history. Just as we have big aspirations and hopes for our children, so too did God have great expectations for humanity. God wanted his children to create a true family which could be the school of true love, true life and true lineage. The human family would have been God’s family where he would dwell as the True Parent of all mankind.

Yet, this dream was not realized. And therefore, God has worked and waited patiently throughout human history, often in agony and lamentation, for someone to realize His unfilled dream.

2,000 years ago, a young carpenter’s son, Jesus Christ, went beyond the traditions of his own people, referring to God as his Father and embracing all humanity as his brothers and sisters. Jesus taught a selfless, compassionate love, the need for individual spiritual responsibility, the promise of universal salvation, and the need to create the family of God.

Tragically Jesus’ life was cut short and the new wine he was to bring was unfortunately poured into less-than-new wine skins. Yet,

his legacy and message lived on through the foundation of world Christianity.

The dream to create “One Family under God” did not end with Jesus. It remained latent within the Christian message, waiting for someone to rekindle Jesus’ universal and global mission.

The person who has taken on the global mantle to create “One Family under God” is none other than my father, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon. He has devoted his entire life to the fulfillment of that mission. To my father, the dream of building “One Family under God” is not just the dream of one man, one woman or one family but the dream of all humanity and, most of all, it is the dream of God.

A True Family is the Model for Peace

Once again, the message whose time has come for this age is “One Family under God.” Why a family? First, the family is universal. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality and religion, we are all members of families.

Secondly, the family represents the most intimate of relationships. When we feel close to someone, we use familial terms, saying “that person is like my father, like my mother, like my brother, and like my sister.” In the family we learn to love humanity in all its richness and diversity.

Before we call ourselves Christian, Muslim, or Jew, before we see ourselves as black, white, or Asian, before we identify ourselves as Korean, Kenyan or American, we are first and foremost the eternal sons and daughters of God and members of his eternal family. This is the starting point to realize the dream of creating “One Family under God,” one family at a time.

Ladies and gentlemen, when my mother, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon last came to Africa, she shared the vision of creating “One Family under God” one family at a time through the process of the World Peace Blessing.

The Blessing is a movement to renew the family as the central building block of God’s kingdom of Heaven on Earth, as well as being an instrument for bringing everlasting global peace and reconciliation. My Father explained this in one of his recent peace messages:

Imagine two enemy families who have cursed each other throughout their lives, people who would never dream of living together. What would happen if these families joined together through an exchange Holy Marriage Blessing? A son from one family and a daughter from the other family become husband and wife, love each other and build a happy home.

Would the parents in each family curse their own children? When their son loves this beautiful daughter of a hated enemy, and she as their daughter-in-law gives birth to Heaven’s grandchildren as pure and clear as crystal, the grandparents would smile with pleasure. In time the two lineages that were once soaked with enmity will be transformed.

What method other than exchange marriage will empower Whites and Blacks, Jews and Muslims, Orientals and Westerners, and people of all races to live as one human family? The ideal family is the model for living together in peace.

Restoring the family, then, through strengthening marriages between a husband and wife as well as raising good children will be the best solution to deal with the plethora of social and civil problems plaguing Africa and the world.

It will buttress 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 could be the solution to break down the age-old resentments that have fueled religious, tribal and civil conflict on this continent.

A New Future for Africa

The African continent has been blessed with some of the world's richest reserves of natural resources. Unfortunately, many African nations are in a state of dire poverty, disease, corruption, and civil war.

Although there are many historical and social reasons why this is so, it is my firm conviction that in order to change this situation, what Africa needs more than anything else is a new paradigm of moral and spiritual leadership rooted in the vision of "One Family under God."

When my parents visited several African nations a couple of years ago, they noticed many parallels between the situation in Africa today and the situation in Korea in the 1950s and 1960s. Like Africa, Korea was then a nation devastated both by a brutal colonial occupation, and then by a civil war where the superpowers of the Cold War era fought a "hot" war of ideological domination.

In the process, our nation was divided along the 38th parallel and more than 70% of the national assets were destroyed. When the conflict ceased in 1953, more than a million people were dead and families torn apart along the arbitrary border between the two Koreas.

Yet within just thirty short years, although the North had stagnated, South Korea has been reborn and experienced unprecedented

growth to the point where it was able to successfully host the Olympic Games in 1988.

Twenty years after that, Korea is one of the leading economic powers of the world. It is the most “wired” nation in the world, leading the internet revolution in addition to dominating the steel and ship building industries as well as fast becoming an automotive and telecommunications giant.

Although South Korea is a small country with a shortage of natural resources, it was able to harness its most valuable assets—it’s industrious and resourceful citizens—for a common collective good.

From the 1960s, a spirit of national unity developed around the “New Village Movement.” First proposed by my father, it was an experiment on a national scale of “living for the sake of others,” a philosophy of life my parents have been promoting through their teachings.

In every town, village and hamlet, people put the public good above their own personal ambition and benefit. In short, this movement’s philosophy morphed into the cultural glue of national solidarity which allowed everyone to prosper together as Koreans.

The same philosophy that helped Korea will certainly help other nations to prosper as well, especially here in Africa. A culture of “living for the sake of others” could diffuse the vitriol of tribalism and civil conflict as well as root out corruption as communities and nations within the continent looks to work together to create an African miracle.

I believe Kenya and the DRC would be an excellent place to start. Although the recent violence that ravaged Kenya at the begin-

ning of this year threatened the survival of this nation, by the grace of God, the flames of hatred and resentment have been extinguished.

I would like to take a moment to applaud the efforts of both President Kibaki and Prime Minister Odinga for having the courage to pull back from the precipice of all-out civil war and choosing instead a path to build the future of this country together as fellow Kenyans and Africans.

The Importance of Service

Ladies and Gentlemen, building a culture of service has been one of the primary goals of the Global Peace Festival. Last month in Paraguay, more than 10,000 high school and college students spent several weeks cleaning almost every park in the capital city of Asunción. Senators, congressmen, priests and community leaders were astonished, saying this level of public service had never been part of their culture, especially among the young.

The Global Peace Festival in Washington DC, USA, conducted similar service projects but went one step further by celebrating a vision to create a worldwide culture of service, through the creation of a Global Peace Corps.

And I am pleased to tell you that here in Nairobi, the Global Peace Festival has also been spearheading a remarkable service effort. Thousands of Kenyans, mostly students, came to clean the banks of the Nairobi River as well as engage in other service programs. To all who participated in these acts of service and kindness, I want to say a heartfelt “thank you!”

There is something deeply spiritual in serving others. It is not something we should do only for a day, a month or even a year. It should become our way of life. When living for the sake of others

becomes a habit, we come to see the true value God places on all human beings.

Imagine if young people from enemy nations work side by side in service. Any misunderstandings and hatred that existed would fade away as they sweat, cry and laugh together with a common purpose and cause.

Creating a culture of service is necessary for peace to exist, and the Global Peace Festival has been re-igniting the spirit of volunteerism in many countries, I'd like to see Kenya's faith-based and community partners joining with those of other countries, such as the United States, to establish a Global Peace Corps.

Working for Religious Reconciliation

Another goal of the Global Peace Festival is to celebrate the common universal values shared by all faiths. This is another vital task if there is to be greater peace and prosperity throughout Africa.

For this to succeed, religious and spiritual leaders must lead the peace process. Instead of advocating their own narrow doctrinal perspective, they must lead all people of faith to recognize the shared values and principles that come from our common heritage in one God.

In the Middle East, the Universal Peace Federation's interfaith gatherings of Christians, Muslims and Jews are helping them rediscover their common heritage in Abraham. They are realizing that they have more in common than differences and that they are truly brothers and sisters of faith, longing equally for peace and reconciliation.

We have discovered that relations between faith traditions are not about mere toleration of one another's prayers and rituals. A true interfaith experience is a celebration of the core principles that bind all God-affirming people together as one family.

When we remember our common origin and our common heritage, our eyes open to the obvious truth that all people, regardless of creed, race or culture, are indeed "One Family under God."

Working with the United Nations and the African Union, I am proposing that Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo second the motion that my father made in the UN to establish an Inter-religious Council of faith leaders similar to the UN Security Council. Many great minds agree that the biggest threat to global peace and future development is religious narrow-mindedness. This new UN council could be the forum for all faiths to find common ground and lead the peace process.

In addition, I believe the UN needs to emulate Kenya and the United States by recognizing the centrality of God in the discussion on human rights. As a result, I propose the UN Charter be modified to include the idea that humanity is "endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights" similar to the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

This is absolutely necessary in securing human rights as an absolute "inalienable right" above any "human institution or law." Without a spiritual precedence rooted in our common heritage, fundamental human rights will be abused. We only need to open our eyes to what is currently transpiring around the world and especially on this continent of Africa.

Call to Action

As the Global Peace Festival advances from nation to nation and continent to continent, we see that a global movement is on the rise, guided by the universal, spiritual vision of “One Family under God.” We see first hand that all humanity is crying out for peace, and we grow more and more confident that a world of peace can be achieved as this vision takes root in the hearts of conscientious men and women the world over.

Let us join the cadre of Ambassadors for Peace and all people of faith who have taken the lead in this global peace initiative as owners of the vision to build “One Family under God.”

I firmly believe that we are at a providential moment in time and God has great plans for us if we are only willing to dream the greatest dream of all. That dream is the dream to create “One Family under God.” Can you own the dream of “One Family under God?!!?” Yes or no?!!

Ladies and gentlemen, the universal, spiritual vision of “One Family under God” should be the clarion call of our age. The power of one human family united, can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world – from the conflict in the Middle East, to the final remnant of the Cold War on the Korean Peninsula, to the poverty, disease and civil strife in Africa.

As we stand today, under the steadfast gaze of our ancestors, let us make a solemn pledge to lead the world to peace through the vision of “One Family under God.” Then, as surely as light overcomes the darkness, an era of peace and prosperity will emerge from the depths of distrust and hatred at home and in the far corners of our world.

Let us erase our tumultuous past and author a new future for this new millennium. Let us dare to dream the greatest dream of all! Let us own the dream of “One Family under God!”

God bless you and your families and especially the nations of Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo! Thank you very much!

ULAANBATAAR, MONGOLIA
September 6-9, 2008

Mongolians Choose Peace

In a moving and dramatic display of national pride and unity, the citizens of Mongolia made a clear commitment to peace and prosperity for their storied nation at the Global Peace Festival in Ulaanbaatar. Just a few short weeks after disputed elections brought this landlocked Asian nation to the brink of civil war, Sukhbaatar Square was again filled with a huge crowd. This time, they sang and danced for peace.



Braving rain, a huge and happy crowd fills Sukhbaatar Square in central Ulaanbaatar, marking a decisive turn away from division and civil strife to embrace the ideal of One Family Under God



Boxing Olympic gold-medalist Badar-Urgan Enkhbat is appointed an Ambassador for Peace

The Festival marked the culmination of several days of activities including a city-wide service effort, a youth arts competition, speaking, dancing and song contests and an International Leadership Conference drawing delegates from Asia, Europe and Oceania.

“Mongolia, Eurasia and the whole world need a new vision of peace for the 21st Century,” said Dr. Hyun Jin Moon in his keynote address. “Unlike the secular thinking of our recent past, it should be a spiritual vision, rooted in universal values”

Undecided territorial, ethnic and national divisions and broken economic and social ties all provoke instability, uncertainty and violence. The nations and peoples of this region need a new peace initiative, based upon a common vision. That vision, which peoples should be the clarion call of our age, is “One Family under God!”

Building A New Culture of Service

With over 50% of Mongolia's population now jostling for space in Ulaanbaatar, the city is facing a crisis as it struggles to make room. Most at risk are the children of new arrivals. The Women's Federation for World Peace has been providing schooling, clothing and meals at the fast-growing Yargui Kindergarten. Volunteers from the Global Peace Festival helped beautify and grade the school grounds, removing dangerous rocks and working with the children to paint cheerful murals pointing to a better future.



The service day at the Yargui Kindergarten sponsored by UPF and WFWP. Now in its 8th year, Yargui is the only school for hundreds of families living in near-slum conditions on Ulaanbaatar's dusty outskirts.

The project at Yargui was just one of a city-wide initiative encouraging young Mongolians in particular to take responsibility for their

neighborhoods and their cities, including a cleanup day that attracted more than 11,000 volunteers. “It’s more than just an aesthetic choice,” said Ulaanbaatar planning director Delger Bayur “we face a recent spate of manhole cover thefts that pose a real threat to public safety. Projects like this help realize that we must take responsibility together.”



International Leadership Conference

In addition to widespread civic action, the Universal Peace Federation is committed to leadership education as an important step in bringing peace. The International Leadership Conference was attended by 250 delegates from 38 nations, including more than 20 former heads of state and senior government ministers from central Asia and from Oceania. “We need to find a better way to choose better leaders,” said Stanislav Shushkevich, former president of Belarus and a member of the UPF Presiding Council, “and this peace education initiative can be an important first step.”



The 250 ILC participants were honored by a special ceremony at the Mongolian Parliament



*An honor guard prepares to meet the ILC delegation from 35 nations in Asia
& Oceania*

The UPF Peace Education program is starting to attract real interest in nations around the world interested in finding a new paradigm of leadership and good governance. “At the most recent Global Peace Festival in Nairobi, Kenya, Prime Minister Raila Odinga credited the UPF Peace Principles with having helped him to defuse the post-election crisis,” says Secretary General Thomas Walsh “and in Nepal we were also able to play a significant role in bringing warring parties to the table.”



The ILC's opening plenary was held in the Mongolian Parliament House



Mongolia's Deputy Prime Minister offers welcoming remarks.

Main Peace Festival in Sukhbataar Square

Despite a cold rain and chilly breeze, a large and enthusiastic crowd started to assemble early for the finale celebration in Mongolia's most famous public space. Anxious to help rather than just be spectators, many of those present had participated in the earlier service projects; some had helped financially by adding donations to their ticket purchases. The event was broadcast live and on the internet by the national television company, UBS, who reported "hits" from viewers around the world.

"This is the start of a better day for our country," said UPF Mongolia Secretary-General Enkhtaivan Chinzorig. "We're very grateful to the hundreds of partners and sponsors who helped us to come this far. Now our challenge will be to take this momentum and work for lasting change in the months to come."



Armed with noise balloons, the audience braves a cold Mongolian evening



The GPF moved the whole country. Left, Hon. Mendsaikhan Enkhsaikhan, former Prime Minister of Mongolia introduces Dr. Moon. Right, a six year old student volunteer sings at a service project.

GPF Keynote Address

Sukhbaatar Square

September 9, 2008

Esteemed dignitaries, family, friends, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Global Peace Festival in beautiful Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, a region steeped with a rich cultural and historical past and an even more promising future.

It is especially a great honor and pleasure to be with you today in the heartland of Asia with my ethnic cousins to celebrate a vision of everlasting peace, as our ancestors have done close to 800 years ago.

However, unlike our forefathers who sought that peace at the end of a sword, we have gathered here to build a peaceful world through a universal, spiritual vision rooted in shared principles and values.

Just last month, the world gathered in Beijing, China for the Olympic Games, under the theme of “One World, One Dream.” Let me take a moment to congratulate Tuvshinbayar Naidan (Tushvee) and Badar-Uugan Enkhbat for winning the first ever gold medals for Mongolia in judo and boxing.

I myself had the privilege of representing Korea in the 1988 Seoul and 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. And I well remember the excitement of competition and cooperation during those games. The problem is, of course, that after a few days, or weeks, the aura of global goodwill starts to fade away as the real problems of the world resurface.

The need for a new vision

Today I want to share a vision of peace for Mongolia and all nations in this region. To begin with, we will need to admit that we have to be bold and break new ground in our search for peace and prosperity, if we are to really go beyond the failures of our past.

We only need to look back to the last century to recognize the futility of tackling the world's problems through the same old military, economic, political, diplomatic and scientific solutions. Dealing with only the symptoms of global crisis and conflict and ignoring the root cause will not work.

Conflict begins when we fail to follow the dictates of our conscience and fail to recognize our common heritage in God. That is why even the grand vision behind the League of Nations and, later, the United Nations was unable to prevent the 20th century from being the bloodiest era in human history.

The world needs a new vision of peace for the 21st Century. Unlike the secular thinking of our recent past, it should be a spiritual vision, rooted in time-enduring values. That vision is "One Family under God!"

The one who has taken on the mantle to champion this vision around the world is none other than my father, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon.

After receiving this revelation on a cold Easter Sunday, more than seventy three years ago, he devoted his entire life, resources and wealth to the fulfillment of that dream. For, to him, the dream to build "One Family under God" was not the dream of just one man, woman or family but belonged to all humanity and, most of all, to God. My father goes on to explain in one of his recent messages,

God, the Creator of all things under the sun, is the true parent of all humanity. He is not a parent in the parochial sense, existing only for a certain religion, a certain race, or the residents of a certain region. You may call Him by any name, be it Jehovah, Allah, [Heaven], or any other. What is important is that He certainly exists, lives as the true parent of all people, and is carrying on the great work of Creation.

A True Family is the Model for Peace

Let us take a moment and think a little more about why the family is the fundamental building block for peace. First and foremost, the family is universal. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality and religious affiliations, we are all members of families.

Secondly, the family represents the most intimate of human relationships. We use familial terms to describe the closeness of any relationship, saying “that person is like my father, like my mother, like my brother, like my sister, like my son and like my daughter.” We have all had those experiences and those types of relationships.

Most importantly, the family is the school of love. Through the lessons in our families, we learn to embrace and value all relationships, whether they are inter-generational, between the sexes, or between peers.

I believe that the three-generational model of grandparents, parents and children is the paragon of family virtue.

Those generations represent the past, present and future living in harmony in one family, thus encapsulating the continuum of time and setting the basis of establishing everlasting peace centered upon true love.

As the cornerstone of all societies, families instill a culture of love and service that extends to our communities, to our nations and to the world. In short, we love our family in order to learn to love humanity in its richness and diversity.

Before we call ourselves Buddhist, Christian, or Muslim, before we see ourselves as black, white, or Asian, before we identify ourselves as Mongolian, Russian, or Chinese, we are first and foremost the eternal sons and daughters of God and members of his eternal family.

Therefore, we should own the dream to realize “One Family under God” one family at a time, by uplifting all families beyond race, nationality or creed.

The Spiritual History of the Mongol Empire

The dream to build “One Family under God” should resonate with Mongolia’s spiritual heritage, a heritage that goes all the way back to its pre-history, very much like my native home of Korea.

In fact, it was this heritage which prompted the most famous Mongolian, Chinggis Han, and later his family to undertake the enormous task of uniting the world under One Heaven.

Although he had been dehumanized by 18th century Europeans intent on building a caricature of Asian inferiority, among many of his contemporaries across Asia, the Middle East and even Europe, Chinggis Han was considered to be an enlightened Prince carrying out a divine mandate to unite humanity and bring an end to conflict and war.

Under the *Pax Mongolia*, all of Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe enjoyed freedom of trade, travel, ideas and even religion. It

was because of this peace that Marco Polo found his way to China and wrote of his travels, leading to the Age of Discovery and, one could even argue, the Renaissance and the Reformation in Europe.

For the first time in human history, one empire controlled the lives of most of the world's inhabitants. Yet, it fostered values of cultural and religious tolerance, respect for ability above social standing, appreciation of human life, and the importance of inter-cultural, inter-racial, and inter-religious marriages and families.

One could even argue that the Mongol empire had the beginnings of a universal framework of religious freedom and human rights later championed by the United States.

Carrying on the legacy

Mongolia's rich historical past is relevant in our age for creating a world of peace, especially here in Eurasia. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the large Eurasian continent has seen an explosion of ethnic, religious, and national rivalries which have destabilized the region, hampering initiatives for peace and prosperity.

The recent war in the South Caucasus proves that the countries of this region still have a way to go to overcome these conflicts of the past. Undecided territorial, ethnic and national divisions and broken economic and social ties all provoke instability, uncertainty and violence. The nations and peoples of this region need a new peace initiative, based upon a common vision.

What unifying legacy, vision and principle could unite the disparate forces at work in this region? I believe that the key to unlock the strife of Eurasia lies in her common history and heritage.

We are all of Mongolian descent, whether we are born in Korea, China or Russia. Spanning from the Pacific to the banks of the Danube, the Mongol lineage, represented by the unique blue birthmark, has spread to encompass more than 70% of the human population.

Recognizing the potential challenges of our age, the Mongolian Peoples Federation for World Peace was inaugurated by my father on August 4th, 2004. At the second assembly, he outlined the purpose of this new peace initiative:

This federation and movement... does not aim at establishing another nation in the world. Nor is it the beginning of a new nationalist movement. It [will]do away with all the walls and national boundaries and bring together the six billion people of the world, through rallying together the interrelated people of Mongolian descent.

If Mongolia could own the vision of “One Family under God” and align with the mission of the Mongolian Peoples Federation, it could inspire the entire region to look beyond its narrow interests and recognize its common heritage and, thereby, its common future.

As the cliché “blood is thicker than water” suggests, the Mongolian lineage transcends national boundaries and cultural divides and builds a collective regional solidarity that could uplift Eurasia from the mire of civil conflict and war.

Like our forefathers who marched across the Eurasian continent, charged with the mission to unite mankind under One Heaven, let us move boldly to the four corners of the world as owners of the vision to create “One Family Under God” ushering in an age of peace and co-prosperity for all Mongolians, Asians, Eurasians and the world.

Will you take on this challenge? Yes or no?

How Nations Become Great

Ladies and Gentlemen, being ranked amongst the largest nations in the world in terms of land mass, Mongolia enjoys an abundant reserve of natural resources such as those recently discovered underneath the Gobi desert. Nevertheless, many nations with similar riches have remained in a state of poverty, disease, corruption, and civil war.

Although there are many historical and social reasons why this is so, it is my firm conviction that nations achieve greatness through moral and spiritual leadership, rooted in the peace philosophy of “living for the sake of others.”

In the 1950s my homeland of Korea was a nation devastated both by a colonial occupation, and then by a civil war where the superpowers of the Cold War era fought a “hot” war of ideological domination.

In the process, our nation was divided along the 38th parallel and more than 70% of the national assets were destroyed. When the conflict ceased in 1953, more than a million people were dead and families torn apart along the arbitrary border between the two Koreas.

Yet within just thirty short years, although the North had stagnated, South Korea has been reborn and experienced unprecedented growth to the point where it was able to successfully host the Olympic Games in 1988.

Twenty years after that, Korea is one of the leading economic powers of the world. It is the most “wired” nation in the world, leading the internet revolution in addition to dominating the steel and ship building industries as well as fast becoming an automotive and telecommunications giant.

Although South Korea is a small country with a shortage of natural resources, it was able to harness its most valuable assets—it's industrious and resourceful citizens—for a common collective good.

From the 1960s, a spirit of national unity developed around the "New Village Movement." First proposed by my father, it was an experiment on a national scale of "living for the sake of others," a philosophy of life my parents have been promoting through their teachings.

In every town, village and hamlet, people put the public good above their own personal ambition and benefit. In short, this movement's philosophy morphed into the cultural glue of national solidarity which allowed everyone to prosper together as Koreans.

The same philosophy that helped build the Korean miracle will certainly help her cousins here in Mongolia as well. A culture of "living for the sake of others" could diffuse the vitriol of self interest and civil conflict as well as root out corruption as communities work together with common purpose and cause to build a unifying national identity.

In that light, I would like to take a moment to applaud the efforts of all those leaders who had the courage to pull back from the precipice of civil conflict. Now is the time to come together as fellow Mongolians and build a new tomorrow for our children and grandchildren. That tomorrow should be rooted in the vision of "One Family under God."

Building A Culture of Service

Recently at the Global Peace Festival in Paraguay, more than 10,000 high school and college students spent several weeks cleaning almost every park in the capital city of Asunción.

Senators, congressmen, priests and community leaders were astonished, saying this level of public service had never been part of their culture, especially among the young.

The Global Peace Festival in Washington, DC conducted similar service projects, including a food drive to feed the hungry in the nation's capitol.

In Nairobi, Kenya, the Global Peace Festival spearheaded a remarkable service effort where thousands of Kenyans, mostly students, cleaned the polluted banks of the Nairobi River.

Here in Mongolia, volunteers from Service for Peace and a dozen other agencies have been working to make the city of Ulaanbaatar a place of beauty and harmony for all its residents.

Just yesterday, I participated, with thousands of young Mongolians, in a project to clean the Peace Bell Park here at the center of Ulaanbaatar. To all those who participated in these acts of service and kindness, I want to say a heartfelt "thank you!"

Creating a culture of service is necessary for peace to exist, and the Global Peace Festival has been re-igniting the spirit of volunteerism in many countries around the world.

I'd like to see Mongolia's exemplary volunteers and service partners joining with nations, such as the United States, Russia, Europe and Asia to establish a Global Peace Corps.

Imagine if young people from enemy nations worked side by side in service with the heart of "living for the sake of others." Any misunderstandings and hatred that existed would fade away as they sweat, cry and laugh together with a common vision to build "One Family under God."

Working for Religious Reconciliation

Another goal of the Global Peace Festival is to celebrate the common universal values shared by all faiths. Religious and spiritual leaders must lead the peace process. Instead of advocating their own narrow doctrinal perspective, they must lead all people of faith to recognize the shared values and principles that come from our common heritage in one God.

In the Middle East, the Universal Peace Federation's interfaith gatherings of Christians, Muslims and Jews are helping them rediscover their common heritage in Abraham. They are realizing that they have more in common than differences and that they are truly brothers and sisters of faith, longing equally for peace and reconciliation.

We have discovered that relations between faith traditions are not about mere toleration of one another's prayers and rituals. A true interfaith experience is a celebration of the core principles that bind all God-affirming people together as one family.

When we remember our common origin and our common heritage, our eyes open to the obvious truth that all people, regardless of creed, race or culture, are indeed "One Family under God."

I would like to suggest that all nations second the motion that my father made in the United Nations to establish an Inter-religious Council of faith leaders, similar to the UN Security Council. This new UN council could be the forum for all faiths to find common ground and lead the peace process.

In addition, I believe the UN needs to recognize the centrality of God in the discussion on human rights. I propose that it ratifies the UN Charter to be in line with the ideal that humanity is "endowed

by our Creator with certain inalienable rights” similar to our Declaration of Independence. This is absolutely necessary in securing human rights as an absolute “inalienable right” above any “human institution or law.” Without a spiritual precedence rooted in our common heritage, fundamental human rights will be abused. We only need to open our eyes to what is currently transpiring around the world.

The biggest dream of all

Let us be bold today and dare to dream big! Let us dream the greatest dream of all! You have already heard of the “Mongolian Dream,” a dream to endow every child with a good education and a healthy life.

Today, I invite you to aspire to an even greater dream.

That dream is “One Family under God.” It should be the clarion call for our age.

As my father suggested, we should “tear down the man-made walls of race, culture, religion and country, and establish the peaceful, ideal world of God’s cherished desire.”

The power of one human family united can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world – from the conflict in the Middle East, to the final remnant of the Cold War on the Korean Peninsula, to the poverty and disease of Africa and to the civil, ethnic and national strife of Eurasia.

As we stand under the steadfast gaze of our ancestors, let us make a solemn pledge to lead the world to peace by realizing the dream to create “One Family under God.” Then, as surely as light overcomes the darkness, an era of peace and prosperity will emerge

from the depths of distrust and hatred both at home and in the far corners of our world.

Together, we can dare to dream the greatest dream of all! Let us own the dream to create “One Family under God.”

May God bless you and your families, this great nation of Mongolia and all then nations represented here. Thank you very much!

OTTAWA, CANADA
October 5-7, 2008

Educating for Peace in Canada

Canada's Ambassadors for Peace drew upon their nation's principal role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, developing UN peacekeeping forces, and offering a warm welcome to people in planning their Global Peace Festival at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa October 2-5, 2008. The theme was "Educating for Peace."



Canada is among 30 nations in the world where peace activists are developing a Citizens Peace Corps and promoting a Ministry of Peace or Department of Peace. Dr. Bill Bhaneja, founder of Canada's Department of Peace Initiative, and Hans Sinn, Chair of the Civilian Peace Service in Canada, gave updates on these projects at a plenary session. Questions were raised about training for such peace professionals and Ambassadors for Peace spoke of the need for peacemakers who are grounded in spiritual values and can draw on the wisdom of religious teachings in the work of reconciliation.



The Ambassadors for Peace in Canada include many immigrants from the Caribbean, Africa, South Asia, and the Russia who hold fast to their spiritual roots in an increasingly secular society, and dedicate

themselves to causes such as education, sports, mediation, youth empowerment, and women as peacemakers. They say people on opposing sides of the civil war in their homeland—such as the Tamils and Sinhalese in Sri Lanka—learn to live in harmony in Toronto and other Canadian cities, where they shop at the same grocery stores and their children attend the same schools. They are communicating these hopeful examples back to their homeland.



Recognizing the common objection that religions, and Christianity in particular, have been used as instruments of subjugation, Dr. Thomas Walsh, UPF Secretary General, challenged participants to look beyond doctrine and rituals and recognize that we are one human family created by God and that the highest qualities of the human being are spiritual and moral.





Richard Burton (Canadian Human Rights Commission offers a tribute to John Humphrey, principal author of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Hon. Dr. Alvin Curling, chair of the Canada Peace Festival and former speaker of the Ontario Legislature, reminded participants of the “war to end all wars” in the early 20th century that led only to more wars. “This is one of the reasons why Canada’s Lester B. Pearson, who later became Prime Minister, proposed during the 1950s the novel notion of UN peacekeepers. “

“That concept has endured to this day and signals Canadians as the most creative chemist of a peaceful solution,” Curling said. He and other speakers challenged participants to become architects of peace and for groups to cross-fertilize in a collaborative work for peace. Conference participants joined other peace groups on October 4 to participate in Peace Prayer Day at the Ottawa City Hall.



At UPF's leadership conferences, sometimes the most challenging issues are addressed not in a conference hall but around a meal table. To difficult questions raised by immigrants to Canada about the effects of colonization, Dr. Hyun Jin Moon replied that he too came from a nation that suffered under Japanese domination. Holding onto resentment will not enable nations to move forward, he said. "The only real solution is spiritual."

Rev. Darryl Gray recounted how his church, the Imani Family and Full Gospel Church in Montreal, gave shelter to three families who were about to be deported. One family were Muslims from Algeria. "People called me to ask why a church would give sanctuary to a Muslim family, and I replied that two thousand years ago a man and a woman carrying a baby were given refuge in their time of need by people who didn't make an issue of what they believed." The families were eventually granted asylum by the Canadian government and are now citizens.



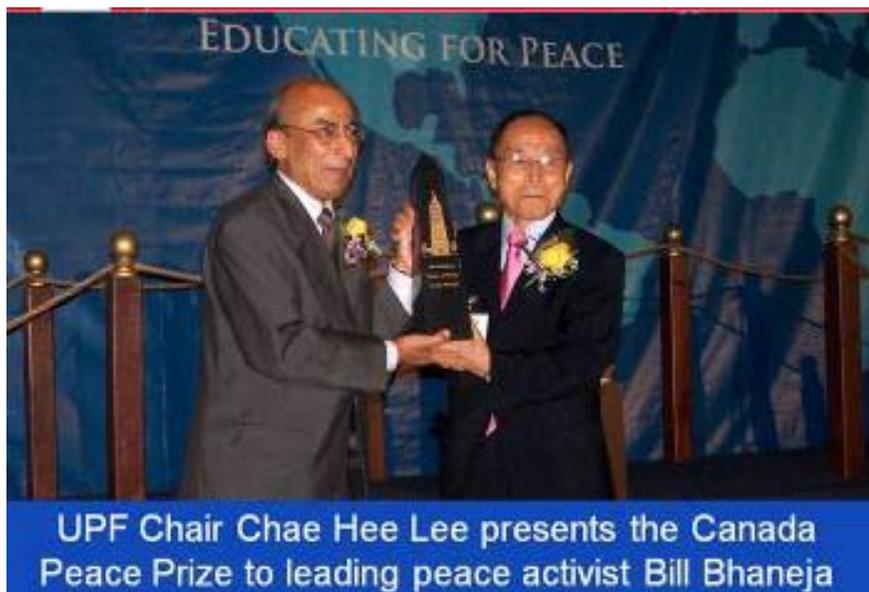
The Hon. Jean Augustine, QC, with the Hon. Beth Phinney MP at the Gala Awards Banquet

Decades ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote a letter to Christian leaders from the Birmingham jail that still pricks the conscience of faith leaders. His assistant, Rev. Walter Fauntroy, a former US Congressman, called religious leaders to continue to be “headlights on the road to peace, not tail lights, and thermostats, not thermometers who merely record the climate of the times.”



Lilly Tadin (L) and Olive Gray (R) during the Bridge of Peace Ceremony

Several Muslim Ambassadors for Peace spoke about the Islamic view of God as full of compassion and mercy, and the calling of Muslims to spread this compassion and mercy in the world. Several gave out books they had written about peace. Among them a Muslim woman, Zeinabel Ghatit, wrote books to help her two Christian daughters-in-law understand and respect the faith of her sons.



GPF International Chairman Dr. Hyun Jin Moon delivered the keynote address at the Gala Awards banquet, starting with a warm tribute to Canada's outstanding record as a peacemaking country. "Canada is the certainly the right place to talk about peace, with her long and proud history of peace and non-violence," he said. "Canada has always been a strong supporter of the United Nation's work for peace and is also known for its warm and uncomplicated welcome for people from all over the world."



The Ambassadors for Peace Awards Ceremony.
There are more than 300,000 worldwide.

“Nevertheless, when we consider the number of wars and conflicts that continue to plague humanity, it is clear that the world undeniably needs a new vision of peace for the 21st Century,” he continued. “And unlike the secular thinking of our recent past, it should be a spiritual vision, rooted in universal values. Dealing with only the symptoms of global crisis and conflict and ignoring the root cause will not work.”

Proposal for a Department of Peace in the Canadian Government

Dr. Bill Bhaneja

Co Chair, Canadian Department of Peace Initiative

In the early part of the 21st century, the peoples of the world are experiencing an intolerable level of insecurity and violence on the parts of states and non-state actors. At the same time, there has been a reenergizing of the peace movement and citizen initiatives for seeking innovative, nonviolent, and enduring resolution of conflict through peacebuilding activities of many kinds. One of those initiatives is a growing international movement for the creation of departments of peace in all nations. Canada, as a middle power with a long history of peacekeeping and negotiated outcomes to conflict, stands in a unique position to become the first country to proclaim a Department and Minister of Peace.

While Canada has many departments carrying out peace-related work, this effort is often fragmented, which makes key decisions, with sensitive timings, difficult to achieve. Traditional organizational priorities and structures fail to address the need to build a culture of peace and nonviolence at home and abroad consistent with Canada's signing of the Declaration and Programme of Action for the UN International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence (2001–10). The present configuration in government is functioning on the margins, whereas only a full-fledged department, with a mission dedicated to peace work, will meet the government's current and projected needs.

The government's 2005 International Policy Statement calls for a greatly expanded initiative in human security and peacebuilding:

- Develop the 3-D (defense-diplomacy-development) approach in conflict and post-conflict situations in which Foreign Affairs, National Defense, and the Canadian International Development Agency would work together in "whole-of-government" strategies; these departments would work closely with civil society organizations dedicated to this work.
- Establish a Stability and Reconstruction Task Force in Foreign Affairs.
- Establish a \$100 million Global Peace and Security Fund to provide assistance to failed and fragile states, as well as resources for post-conflict stabilization and recovery.
- Expand the work of the Canada Corps in promoting human rights, democracy, and good governance.
- Support the to-be-established UN Peacebuilding Commission and a Peacebuilding Support Office to provide capacity for faster, more efficient peacebuilding operations.

The question then arises that, given this emphasis on integrated peace and security operations, how would such operations be coordinated? The brief presents the argument that only a new department — the Department of Peace — would provide the essential focal point in government and end the highly diffuse nature of peacebuilding at the present time. The Minister would be a voice in Cabinet who could fundamentally alter the nature of debate and decision-making towards a culture of peace and nonviolence on both domestic and foreign issues and would also provide the long-range thinking required to address the root causes of violence.

Specifically, the Department of Peace and its Minister would have the following mandate:

- Reinvigorate Canada's role as a global peacebuilder, provide for early detection of potential conflict, and develop and improve diverse methods of conflict prevention.
- Promote justice and democratic principles to expand human rights and the security of persons and their communities, consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as other related UN treaties, conventions, and the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (1999).
- Promote disarmament, from nuclear weapons to small arms, and strengthen nonmilitary means of peacemaking.
- Develop new approaches to non-violent intervention and utilize constructive dialogue, mediation, and the peaceful resolution of conflict at home and abroad.
- Make annual reports to Cabinet and Parliament on the sale of arms from Canada to other nations, with analysis of the multiple impacts of such sales and how they affect peace.
- Encourage the development of peace initiatives from civil society including the creation of an unarmed civilian peace service by which NGOs in partnership will be able to expand and further develop their ongoing work in the field of nonviolent conflict prevention and/or management.
- Implement UN Resolution 1325 on the key role played by women in peace through new policies and programs of women's involvement in conflict resolution and peace education covering the full spectrum from peacemaking and peacebuilding, to post-conflict reconstruction.
- Provide, with National Defense, for the training of all Canadian military and civilian personnel who administer post-conflict reconstruction and demobilization in war-torn societies.

- Fund the development of peace curricula at all educational levels and university-based peace research to build a culture of peace in Canada and globally.

Citizens in 11 countries, including the USA, UK, Japan, and Australia, are calling for a Department of Peace. In Canada, groups working for a Department of Peace are established in Ottawa, Victoria, and Vancouver. The proposal is supported by former Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Senator Douglas Roche, and endorsed in a resolution by the Council of Canadians.

It is our intention to engage in a vigorous dialogue with all political parties and peace and justice organizations to convince them of the importance and timeliness of this proposal.

For more information, please visit: www.departmentofpeace.ca.

Civilian Peace Service Initiatives

Dr. Hans Sinn

Chair, Civilian Peace Service, Canada

Civilian Peace Service Canada (CPSC) began in February of 2005, following an International Civilian Peace Service Consultation at Saint Paul University in Ottawa. Since then, our CPSC Committee has moved forward informed by the experience of our European friends and colleagues and supported by the ongoing work of Canadian peace, human rights, and development NGOs, along with our own particular views and undertakings.

Specifically, in Canada we are moving ahead with the promotion of a Civilian Peace Service in conjunction with a Federal Department of Peace Initiative and the emphatic advocacy of peace as a profession. CPSC has issued a 400-page White Paper, developed a first profile of a Peace Professional, and is about to implement a pilot project for the accreditation of Peace Professionals. Our colleagues in French Canada are currently exploring the creation of a Civilian Peace Service Cadet Corps.

The approach being taken by CPSC to promoting peace professionalism is competency-based. With the support and active participation of key partners, we plan to build a roster of qualified Peace Professionals who demonstrate the shared core values and key competencies (see below) which we propose as necessary to serve effectively in areas of conflict. Development of the core values and key competencies is largely based on the input of seasoned experts with a passion for peace and a heart for helping others. Two CPSC conferences, including the most recent involving Dr. Johan Galtung, have inspired and informed our work.

The approach we are using begins with the assessment of potential candidates against core values as an entry qualification. Successful candidates are then measured against the key competencies and invited to participate in training as appropriate. Seasoned Peace Professionals agree that while key competencies can be learned, core values need to be in place from the start. Consequently, if core values are not identified during rigorous initial screening, candidates are not invited to continue the qualification process.

The core values that are felt to be critical for professional peace work are: empathy, sincerity, humility, sound judgment, integrity, a strong desire for social justice and peace for all, personal maturity, and the willingness to learn.

The key competencies felt to be essential are: communication, operational planning, conciliation, peace building, conflict analysis and transformation, personal security, facilitation, strategic thinking, and mediation and teamwork.

The Canadian Department of Peace Initiative (CDPI) has chapters in 11 Canadian cities and held a very successful Women Building Peace banquet, honoring Canadian women. CDPI is looking forward to participating in the third International Conference of this growing worldwide movement. The conference is to be held in September 2009 in Costa Rica, in conjunction with the establishment of a Ministry of Peace by the Costa Rican government.

CPSC Canada is well underway with plans for its Women Building Peace conference February 15-17, 2009 at Saint Paul University in Ottawa. We are convinced that youth and women are essential to both the creation of Ministries of Peace and a formal Civilian Peace Service in partnership with government.

The idea of a Civilian Peace Service is not new. If it were, then we would have a much harder and longer road ahead of us. Back in 1922,

Clara Ragaz-Nadig, wife and partner of the theologian Leonhard Ragaz, petitioned the Swiss government with 40,000 signatures for a Civilian Service as a substitute for military service. Before Clara Ragaz and the founding in 1915 of the Women International League for Peace and Freedom, members of the peace churches — Quakers, Mennonites and Doukhobors — preceded us and our work by several hundred years.

It was in that older tradition and its spirit that the World Peace Brigade was created in 1962. The World Peace Brigade undertook in its two-year existence three significant nonviolent interventions in international conflicts. Based on Mahatma Gandhi's *Shanti Sena* — or Peace Army — established in 1917, his spiritual successor, Vinoba Bhave, petitioned the United Nations in 1970 for a Civilian Peace Service. In Canada, Peace Brigades International was established in 1981, largely by members of the earlier World Peace Brigade who reassembled. Today, Peace Brigades International has offices in 15 countries and manages five international projects of long standing.

Taking the cue nationally and internationally, the Evangelical Church in Berlin-Brandenburg proposed in 1994 a Civilian Peace Service as a formal partnership between government and a nongovernmental organization in the fields of peace, human rights, and development. Backed by some 80 NGOs and the Green Party, the proposal was adopted, in part, by the German government and implemented in 1999. At about the same time, an international organization called the Nonviolent Peaceforce was formed, with some 90 member organizations internationally.

Clearly, unarmed civilians are serving and have served the cause of peace the world over in many ways. We are fortunate to have this tradition and these precedents to build upon and further develop, both in theory and in practice. The establishment of Peace as a Profession is moving rapidly from the dream stage into reality, for both young and old to choose as a career, similar to how we might choose to become lawyers, dentists, engineers, or doctors.

A culture of peace is a work in progress, along with its own architecture and appropriate institutions, such as departments and ministries, which will coordinate the projects locally, nationally, and internationally. We cannot fail to notice as we come in contact and learn to know each other as workers in the same field, the growth of peace work in its diversity, complexity, and essential unity.

Regardless how we approach peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding — be it as a religious calling or as secular profession — the values and competencies required to be effective are similar if not the same. Training programs, present and future, will aim to further clarify values and to expand and strengthen a growing range of competencies. We are likely to learn how to better observe and measure our effectiveness as peace workers in a growing set of diverse environments and circumstances and to deal with potential and actual conflict — and its consequences. Most importantly, we are learning from each other and are looking forward to learning from you.

Canada GPF Keynote Address

Millennium Hotel

October 7, 2008

Esteemed dignitaries, family, friends, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Global Peace Festival in beautiful Ottawa, Canada.

It is a great honor and pleasure to be with you today here to celebrate a vision of everlasting peace.

Canada is the certainly the right place to talk about peace, with her long and proud history of peace and non-violence. Canada has always been a strong supporter of the United Nation's work for peace and is also known for its warm and uncomplicated welcome for people from all over the world.

Nevertheless, when we consider the number of wars and conflicts that continue to plague humanity, it is clear that the world undeniably needs a new vision of peace for the 21st Century. And unlike the secular thinking of our recent past, it should be a spiritual vision, rooted in universal values.

We only need to look back to the last century to recognize the futility of tackling the world's problems through the same old military, economic, political, diplomatic and scientific solutions.

Dealing with only the symptoms of global crisis and conflict and ignoring the root cause will not work. We must be bold and break new ground in our search for peace and prosperity, if we are to really go beyond the failures of our past.

Today, therefore, I want to share a new vision of lasting peace for Canada and for all nations. That vision is "One Family under God!"

The one who has taken on the mantle to champion this vision around the world is none other than my father, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon. He has devoted his entire life, resources and wealth to the fulfillment of that dream.

The dream to build “One Family under God” is not the dream of just one man, woman or family but belongs to all humanity and, most of all, to God. As my father explained when he visited Toronto a few years ago,

God, the Creator of all things under the sun, is the true parent of all humanity. He is not a parent in the parochial sense, existing only for a certain religion, a certain race, or the residents of a certain region.

You may call Him by any name, be it Jehovah, Allah, [Heaven], or any other. What is important is that He certainly exists and lives as the true parent of all people..

A True Family is the Model for Peace

Why is the family the fundamental building block for peace? First and foremost, the family is universal. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality and religious affiliations, we are all members of families.

Secondly, the family represents the most intimate of human relationships. We use familial terms to describe the closeness of any relationship, saying “that person is like my father, like my mother, like my brother, like my sister, like my son and like my daughter.”

Most importantly, the family is the school of love. I believe that the three-generational model of grandparents, parents and children is the paragon of family virtue.

Those generations represent the past, present and future living in harmony in one family, setting the basis of establishing everlasting peace centered upon true love.

Before we call ourselves, Christian, or Muslim, Jew or Buddhist, before we see ourselves as black, white, or Asian, before we identify ourselves as Canadian, or American, or citizens of any nation, we are first and foremost the eternal sons and daughters of God and members of his eternal family. Therefore, we should own the dream to realize “One Family under God” one family at a time, by uplifting all families beyond race, nationality or creed.

The recent war in the South Caucasus is yet another unwelcome reminder that the countries of this world have a way to go to overcome these conflicts of the past.

Undecided territorial, ethnic and national divisions and broken economic and social ties all provoke instability, uncertainty and violence.

This is why we so badly need a new peace initiative, based upon the common vision of “One Family Under God”

If Canada could own this vision of “One Family under God” it could inspire the entire continent and the world to look beyond its narrow interests and recognize its common heritage and, thereby, its common future.

Will you take on this challenge? Yes or no?

A New Culture of Service and Peace

Creating a culture of service is a necessary step for peace. The Global Peace Festival has created a new spirit of volunteerism around the world.

In Paraguay, more than 10,000 high school and college students spent weeks cleaning almost every park in the capital city of Asunción.

In Kenya more than 25,000 volunteers helped clean the polluted banks of the Nairobi River.

In Mongolia, volunteers from Service for Peace and a dozen other agencies have been working to make the city of Ulaanbaatar a place of beauty and harmony for all its residents.

At the Global Peace Festival in Washington, DC, we worked with President George H Bush's Points of Light Institute and held a food drive to feed the hungry in the nation's capitol. I know you've made a similar drive right here in Ottawa as well.

To all those who participated in these acts of service and kindness, I want to say a heartfelt "thank you!"

I'd like to see Canada's volunteers and service partners joining with other nations, such as the United States, Europe, Russia, China, and Asia to establish a Global Peace Corps.

Imagine if young people from enemy nations worked side by side in service with the heart of "living for the sake of others."

Any misunderstandings and hatred that existed would fade away as they sweat, cry and laugh together with a common vision to build "One Family under God."

Working for Religious Reconciliation

Another goal of the Global Peace Festival is to celebrate the common universal values shared by all faiths.

Religious and spiritual leaders must lead the peace process. Instead of advocating their own narrow doctrinal perspective, they must lead all people of faith to recognize the shared values and principles that come from our common heritage in one God.

Let us be bold tonight and dare to dream big!

The greatest dream of all is "One Family under God." It should be the clarion call for our age.

The power of one human family united can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world – from the conflict in the Middle East, to the final remnant of the Cold War on the Korean Peninsula, to the poverty and disease of Africa and to the civil, ethnic and national strife of Eurasia.

As we stand under the steadfast gaze of our ancestors, let us make a solemn pledge to lead the world to peace by realizing the dream to create “One Family under God.”

Then, as surely as light overcomes the darkness, an era of peace and prosperity will emerge from the depths of distrust and hatred both at home and in the far corners of our world.

Together, we can dare to dream the greatest dream of all!

Let us own the dream to create “One Family under God.”

May God bless you and your families, this great nation of Canada and all the nations represented here at the Global Peace Festival! Thank you very much!

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
October 16-20, 2008

Malaysia hopes to be the world capital of peace

“Space has definitely changed my view on life,” Malaysian astronaut Datuk Dr. Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor told the packed and attentive audience at Kuala Lumpur’s Bukit Jalil stadium at the Global Peace Festival Malaysia on October 19. “When I was in space, I felt very sad,” he said, “I saw how small, how perfect our planet really is, and then I reflected on all the conflict and suffering we cause each other. I started to be more concerned about the suffering of women and children, and I decided I had to do something about it.”



Sheikh Muszaphar and many of the nation’s most influential citizens were gathered to celebrate the latest in the Global Peace Festival series and to promote the GPF vision with the slogan “Let’s make Malaysia the

world capital of peace.” The Festival was jointly sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation, the Ministry of Unity, Arts, Culture and Heritage, and the United Nations Association of Malaysia (UNAM).



GPF Chair Hyun Jin Moon and Datuk Dr. Sheikh Muszaphar Skukor, Malaysia's first astronaut

“We’re proud of the fact that our multicultural, multiracial, and multiethnic society – Malay, Chinese and Indian – has managed to live together in peace for 50 years since independence,” says Tan Sri Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail, chairperson of GPF Malaysia

A small, energetic Muslim woman with enthusiasm written all over her face, Tan Sri Ismail says the Festival’s simple message of “One Family Under God” can help spread the Malaysian success story to other nations in the region, where racial and religious tensions all often erupt into violence and bloodshed. “We need a new generation of leaders to bring peace,” she said.



Greetings from Tan Sri Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail,
Chair of the Global Peace Festival Malaysia



The Festival opened with an International Leadership
Conference exploring models of good governance

Speakers at the International Leadership Conference called for a greater understanding between Islam and other Abrahamic faiths. “We share the same two commandments,” said Imam Faisal Abdul Rauf of the

Cordoba Initiative. “We are to love God, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Today, everyone is my neighbor. But we are not actually living the commandments.” Rauf, a leader of US/Muslim dialogue, heads a mosque near Ground Zero in New York, and is author of the book *What’s Right with Islam*.



H.E. Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, Prime Minister of Malaysia (1981-2003), delivers the keynote address.

The Honorable Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, Malaysia’s Prime Minister for 22 years from 1981 to 2003, agreed that religious and political leaders need to work together much more closely for peace. Denouncing radical interpretations of Islam that seem to call for violence, he said that Islam must be a force for peace. “We must anchor peace on earth,” he said, “and that can only come through faith.”

Meanwhile thousands of students were engaged in a far-reaching campaign aimed at conquering poverty and despair in the region. “Every young person can make a difference,” says Dr. The Su Thye, Executive Director of GPF Malaysia. “When high school and college students can give just 10 cents a day we can say ‘Bye to Poverty’ once and for all.”



Nicholas Lee, organizer of the "10 cents" campaign presents a cheque to IRFF Cambodia



'Queen of Rock' Ella sings the GPF Anthem with 'Malaysian Idols' Danell Lee (2005), Jaclyn Victor (2004)



Members of the Royal Malaysian Air Force Band play the National Anthem.

Several of Malaysia's top recording artists, including Malaysian Idol winners Danell Lee (2005) and Jaclyn Victor (2004), and Ratu Rock (Queen of Rock) Ella offered free performances at the Festival and helped record public service announcements in the weeks leading up to the celebration. The Royal Malaysian Air Force Band and the Cultural Dance Troupe of the Malaysian National Department of Culture and Arts, together with a host of rising young stars, kept the crowd of almost 20,000 on their toes.



2,500 student volunteers offer a day of community service to the city of Kuala Lumpur, a GPF tradition.

“One Family Under God should be the clarion call of this age” said GPF Founder, Dr. Hyun Jin Moon. “It is not the dream of just one family, religion or nation. It is the dream of all humanity, and more than that, it is the dream of God. If Malaysia can take ownership of this dream it can bring hope to all of Asia.”

We Must Make a New Start

Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohammad

Prime Minister, Malaysia, 19812003

The world is facing a crisis in many areas. We know of wars being fought in various places, people being killed, and people blowing themselves up in desperation. Pressures are exerted on weak countries and poor countries. But lately we are seeing what appears to be a systematic collapse of the international financial system. Huge banks which looked as if they were as steady as the Rock of Gibraltar are collapsing — not one, not two, but dozens of them. The biggest bank in the world collapsed, and we see this effect spreading from America to Europe and very soon to the rest of the world. So the world is indeed in a state of crisis.

In such a state, we need to find something to anchor us back on earth, and if there is to be an anchor, it must be based on faith.

We know that the world is divided into people of different faiths, but basically the faith of all these religions is the same. Religions preach and promote peace and brotherhood. There is no religion which says that you should go forth and kill those who are not of your own faith. I've studied the Qur'an and I couldn't find any verse which directs Muslims to kill non-Muslims. In fact, we are told to live at peace with peoples of other religions.

Surah Al-Kahfirul refers to the different religions professed by different people, and says that you have to accept them — "to them their religion, to you your religion." It doesn't say "to them their religion, and therefore you should fight them."

The word *Islam* means peace. Unfortunately, we don't see much peace in the Muslim world today. Peace may not be possible because of outside attacks, invasions, etc., but even within the Muslim community there are civil wars and people killing each other because their interpretations of Islam differ. We have read about the fights between the Sunnis and the Shi'as; there are other sects which disagree with the rest, and they, too, sometimes resort to violence.

But if we ask ourselves whether this is part of the teachings of Islam, the answer is absolutely no. It is not a part of the teachings of Islam for Muslims to fight each other. Muslims must regard other Muslims as their brothers and sisters. It is their duty to protect their brothers and sisters, not to fight against them. We find the same contradictory phenomena in most religions.

Islam came to us 1,400 years ago. During these 1,400 years, there have been many learned people who interpreted Islam for their followers. Unfortunately, their interpretations differ from each other. These interpretations were so different that the followers of each regarded the followers of the other as not being Muslim, and because of that they felt justified in fighting each other.

But that is not the religion that was brought by the Prophet. We know the Prophet Muhammad (*S.A.W.*) brought only one religion. During his time there were no Shi'as, no Sunnis, no Alawites. Locally, we have Ayapin and all kinds of preachers who teach what they believe to be Islam. Their interpretations come from their own understanding, but they are not really the teachings of Islam. Such differences in interpretation lead to conflicts, not only among Muslims but also between Muslims and non-Muslims. So we cannot blame religion itself for conflict.

I have studied the Qur'an and I found nothing morally wrong in the teachings of the Qur'an and all the verified Hadith (the traditions of the Prophet). Yet, things are done in the name of religion that are contrary to

the teachings of Islam. Many conflicts arise from misinterpretations or just different interpretations.

In this regard, what happens in Islam also happens in the Christian religion. We know that the Christian religion, like Islam, is just one, but there are different sects based on various interpretations. Of course, today they are not fighting each other, but they used to fight each other; they used to burn people at the stake. In the 1500s, people who followed the teachings of someone like Martin Luther were persecuted. But I believe that it is not part of the teachings of Christianity to burn people at the stake just because they have chosen to follow a different interpretation of the religion.

There are maybe a thousand different interpretations of Islam, and each regards his interpretation to be right and all the rest wrong. If people merely believed that all the rest are wrong, that might not do much harm, but when they think the others are so wrong that they are not Muslims and therefore it is their duty to fight and kill them, such interpretations become destructive and lead to conflicts and even wars.

This is what we are seeing in the Islamic world today. There is a Malay saying that when you lose your way, go back to the beginning and start all over again. I think we have lost our way.

A lot of people of different religious faiths have lost their way, and it is important that we go back to the beginning. What is the beginning for Muslims? The beginning is the Qur'an itself, the Word of God that was conveyed to Prophet Muhammad. People have been adding a lot of new things to the traditions of the Prophet to justify whatever they want do, according to the time and circumstances. But we can identify only a small number of these traditions as being true and valid. If we adhere to the teachings of the Qur'an and the traditions which are valid, I think there will be no division among Muslims.

When we lose our way, we need to go back to where we started. We have become very confused and do not know our direction. We believe in teachings that are mere interpretations from ordinary human beings, not prophets.

There is only one prophet in Islam — Muhammad. Of course, we acknowledge the earlier prophets of the Christians and the Jews, but after Muhammad there are no more prophets. However, some imams and *ulamas* interpret Islam in accordance with their own understanding of the teachings, and some of these interpretations are not truly Islamic. Indeed, they cannot be Islamic when they differ so much from each other that they Muslims regard other Muslims as non-Muslims and are prepared to fight and kill them. This is what we are seeing in some of the Muslim countries, which is very unfortunate because this is not following the teachings of Islam.

I cannot speak about Christianity and other religions because I'm not well-versed in them, but I have found that there is a need for Muslims to look again at the religion that they are practicing and ask whether it is truly in accordance with the teachings of Islam as brought by the Prophet or whether it is the result of somebody's understanding, someone's particular interpretation.

We see a world in crisis. A lot of people are taking advantage of every kind of system that is devised. There is financial turmoil because of the collapse of the international financial system. The international financial system began with the Bretton Woods Agreements, and greedy people interpret things in their own way in order to benefit from loopholes found in any system.

We need new leaders and good governance. We realized that a long time ago, but we did nothing about it. Now it is time to look for a new paradigm of leadership and good governance in all areas of human endeavor. We need people who will practice their religion as it was taught originally, not as someone interpreted it. We need to review the systems

used throughout the world — including the financial system, the so-called free trade system — because all of these have been misinterpreted and abused by greedy people.

Indeed, it has been said that greed is great, but that is like saying that killing is good. There must be something wrong with our moral values when we say that greed is great. It's about time to reconsider all these systems — from the religions that we believe in to all the systems that govern the relations among people. We need leaders who are willing to critique and perhaps discard some of the accepted beliefs and systems.

We may have to invent new systems. In the case of religion, we don't have to invent a new religion but rather go back to the original religions as taught by the original prophets. However, the systems of finance and trade are man-made devices and are not holy; therefore, we can critique them, discard them, and devise new ways to overcome the challenges. Thus, we need leaders who are unafraid to come up with new ideas. If we study the global crisis properly, understand it, and fearlessly address the issues, we can correct current abuses and prevent future abuses of our global systems.

If we go back to the original teachings of our religion, we will not be misled by people who have misinterpreted the real message of our religion and who seek to impel us to do things that are actually forbidden by our religion.

Long ago, slavery was accepted as normal. Everybody had slaves; if you owed money to someone and could not repay it, then you became a slave of that person. The fate of the black slaves who were taken to America was terrible. If they got sick on the ship, they were thrown into the sea where there were sharks. Human beings did such terrible things until the idea came of age that slavery was wrong. Then a man named William Wilberforce believed that slavery was not acceptable because it was oppression of one human being by another. Wilberforce struggled

for 20 years to abolish the slave trade, and he succeeded. Today, slavery is not acceptable, and we would be ashamed to attempt to practice slavery.

Similarly, what about war? War is about killing people. In any society, if you kill a person, that is murder, and you will be arrested and perhaps sentenced to death. If you kill one man, you may be hung for it; yet we train people to kill others and we equip them with terrible weapons. Just one man can kill 100,000 people. That is what happened in Hiroshima: one person pressed a button, and about 100,000 men, women, and children were vaporized. But that was not considered a crime. The person who pressed the button went home and was glorified. There is something wrong with our value system if killing one person is a crime but killing 100 people is not.

As long as we believe that war is an option in settling conflicts between nations, we will not be civilized. War must be abolished and replaced by negotiation, arbitration, or a court of law, and everyone must submit to this. It may not happen in our time, but the struggle against war, including the process of criminalizing war, must be started now. It may take longer than the 20 years it took Wilberforce to abolish the slave trade, but if we consider ourselves civilized people, we must make war a crime. I hope that Malaysians will become more and more conscious that war is not an option.

Malaysia GPF Keynote Address

Bhukit Jalil Stadium

October 22, 2008

Esteemed dignitaries, family, friends, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Global Peace Festival in beautiful Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Salam Sejahtera! Greetings!

It is a great honor and pleasure to be with you today to celebrate a vision of everlasting peace. Your being here this evening in such numbers is a clear sign that the Global Peace Festival is indeed bringing a new breath of hope to a world yearning for an end to the cycle of war, conflict and poverty!

I love Malaysia! Each time I come here, I am deeply impressed at how this nation is becoming a model of interfaith peace and unity, with people of all religions, races and ethnicities living together as neighbors and as brothers and sisters.

Malaysia is truly a nation that loves God. When we visited the Putrajaya Mosque on Friday, I was inspired to learn how the parliamentary leaders of the nation pause in their governmental duties every week to honor God.

Elsewhere, we saw preparations for the celebration of Deepavali, the Hindu festival of lights, and we were reminded of your beautiful tradition of tolerance of all faiths.

Moreover, Malaysia has invited tens of thousands of students from all over the world to study here, many with generous scholarships. In this way, you are helping to create a new generation of peace-builders who will take a central role in building a world of peace in this 21st century.

Young people like to dream big. Malaysia is young nation that is dreaming about becoming the world capital of peace. I have come here tonight to challenge you to dream the greatest dream of all, the dream of “One Family Under God.”

I think we can all agree that there is a long way to go if we are to truly realize this dream of peace. In recent weeks, financial chaos and economic uncertainty have been shaking almost every nation of the world.

Every nation also faces persistent problems of crime, unemployment, AIDs, poverty, family breakdown and youth problems. On top of all that, there are a record number of wars and regional conflicts that continue to plague the human family.

Recently, the United Nations released a very pessimistic report stating that progress towards the Millennium Development Goals is way off track. No wonder it sometimes seems that our world is actually further away from peace than ever before!

One thing is clear: if there is to be any change, the world undeniably needs a new vision of peace for the 21st Century. Moreover, unlike the secular thinking of our recent past, it should be a spiritual vision, rooted in universal values.

We only need to look back to the last century to recognize the futility of tackling the world’s problems through the same old military, economic, political, diplomatic and scientific solutions. Dealing with only the symptoms of global crisis and conflict and ignoring the root cause will not work.

We must be bold and break new ground in our search for peace and prosperity, if we are to really go beyond the failures of our past. Today, therefore, I want to share a new vision of lasting peace for Malaysia and for all nations.

That vision is “One Family under God!”

The one who has taken on the mantle to champion this vision around the world is none other than my father, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon. He has devoted his entire life and all his resources to the fulfillment of that dream.

The dream to build “One Family Under God” is not the dream of just one man, woman or family but belongs to all humanity and, most of all, to God.

As my father explained in a recent Peace Message,

God, the Creator of all things under the sun, is the true parent of all humanity. He is not a parent in the parochial sense, existing only for a certain religion, a certain race, or the residents of a certain region.

You may call Him by any name, be it Allah, Jehovah, God, Heaven or any other. What is important is that He certainly exists and lives as the creator and true parent of all mankind.

A True Family is the Model for Peace

Why is the family the fundamental building block for peace? First and foremost, the family is universal. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality and religious affiliations, we are all members of families.

Secondly, the family represents the most intimate of human relationships. We use familial terms to describe the closeness of any relationship, saying “that person is like my father, like my mother, like my brother, like my sister, like my son and like my daughter.”

Most importantly, the family is the school of love. I believe that the three-generational model of grandparents, parents and children is the paragon of family virtue.

Those generations represent the past, present and future living in harmony in one family, setting the basis of establishing everlasting peace centered upon true love.

Before we call ourselves Muslim or Christian or Hindu, before we see ourselves as Black, White, or Asian, before we identify ourselves as Malaysian, Chinese or Korean, we are first and foremost brothers and sisters and members of God's eternal family.

The dream of creating "One Family under God" can only be realized by uplifting all families beyond race, nationality or creed.

If Malaysia could own this vision of "One Family under God" it could inspire the entire continent of Asia, and even the world to look beyond its narrow interests and recognize its common heritage and, thereby, its common future.

Will you take on this challenge? Yes or no?

A New Culture of Service and Peace

Creating a culture of service is a necessary step for peace. The Global Peace Festival has created a new spirit of volunteerism around the world.

In Paraguay, more than 10,000 high school and college students spent weeks cleaning almost every park in the capital city of Asunción.

In Kenya more than 70,000 volunteers helped clean the polluted banks of the Nairobi River.

In Mongolia, volunteers from Service for Peace and a dozen other agencies are working to make the city of Ulaanbaatar a place of beauty and harmony for all its residents.

At the Global Peace Festival in Washington, DC, the GPF worked with the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Points of Light Institute and many local charities to hold a food drive to feed the hungry in the America's capital.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with some of the thousands of young people who've been offering sacrificial service right here in Malaysia. I'd like to say a special thank you to the many organizations and dedicated individuals who have worked so hard to make this Global Peace Festival possible.

In particular I'd like to acknowledge the contribution of the Ministry of Unity, Arts, Culture and Heritage, the United Nations Association of Malaysia, and the men and women of the Malaysian Armed Forces.

To all those you who participated in the "Power of 10 Cents" campaign and in many other acts of service and kindness, I want to say a heartfelt "thank you!"

I'd like to see Malaysia's volunteers and service partners joining with other nations to establish a Global Peace Corps. Imagine if young people from enemy nations worked side by side in service with the heart of "living for the sake of others."

Any misunderstandings and hatred that existed would fade away as they sweat, cry and laugh together with a common vision to build "One Family under God."

Working for Religious Reconciliation

Another important goal of the Global Peace Festival is to celebrate the common universal values shared by all faiths.

Religious and spiritual leaders must lead the peace process. Instead of advocating their own narrow doctrinal perspective, they must lead all people of faith to recognize the shared values and principles that come from our common heritage in one God.

I would like to suggest that Malaysia second the motion that my father made in the United Nations to establish an Inter-religious Council of faith leaders, similar to the UN Security Council. This new UN council

could be the forum for all faiths to find common ground and lead the peace process.

In addition, I believe the United Nations itself needs to recognize the centrality and sovereignty of God in its discussions on human rights and peace. Without a spiritual precedent rooted in our common heritage, fundamental human rights will continue to be abused.

Let us therefore be bold tonight and dare to dream big! The greatest dream of all is “One Family under God.” It should be the clarion call for our age.

The power of one human family united can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world – from the conflict in the Middle East, to the final remnant of the Cold War on the Korean Peninsula, to the poverty and disease of Africa and to the civil, ethnic and national strife of Eurasia.

As we stand under the steadfast gaze of our ancestors, let us make a solemn pledge to lead the world to peace by realizing the dream to create “One Family under God.”

Then, as surely as light overcomes the darkness, an era of peace and prosperity will emerge from the depths of distrust and hatred both at home and in the far corners of our world.

Together, we can dare to dream the greatest dream of all! Let us own the dream to create “One Family under God.”

May God bless you and your families, this great nation of Malaysia and all the nations represented here at the Global Peace Festival!

Terima Kasay!

Thank you very much!

SEOUL, KOREA
November 6-9, 2008

New Hope For Korean Reunification

Can Korea ever be reunited? That was the urgent question posed separately to a crowd of tens of thousands at the Global Peace Festival in Seoul's Yoido Plaza, and to a smaller but highly placed group of more than 600 people at the Korean National Assembly.

Congressmen and women and representatives of the international diplomatic community in Seoul gathered November 7-9 for a frank and often outspoken debate on the need for new strategies for the reunification of Korea, the last divided nation on earth. The UPF's International Leadership Conference also included 177 delegates from 55 nations gathered in Seoul to celebrate the Global Peace Festival.



A view of the massive crowd at the Global Peace Festival Korea at Yoido Plaza

The Hon. Young-sun Song, a National Assemblywoman and Co-chair of the International Leadership Conference, outlined the case for a new approach to peacemaking. “The current Six-Party talks are producing only one winner, and that is North Korea,” she said. “The more we talk, and the more aid we send to the North – more than US\$6.7 billion already – the more the North develops its nuclear and military capabilities.”

Mr. Cheol-hwan Kang, a defector from North Korea who now works for the *Chosun Ilbo* newspaper in Seoul, agreed that the North Korean leaders were being manipulative, but explained: “The reality is that the ordinary people of North Korea are in a disastrous situation. More than three million have already died from hunger. Human rights are almost non-existent, and even the deployment of more and more troops on the Chinese border is failing to prevent the flow of North Koreans wanting to defect.”



Delegates of the Universal Peace Federation arrive for a peace seminar at the Korean National Assembly



The seminar featured panelists from each of the nations participating in the Six-Party talks that are the current framework for the peace process on the peninsula. In turn, each panelist outlined the primary and often conflicting concerns of their nations. With common land borders with North Korea, China and Russia are very cautious about any sudden changes. In contrast, the Japanese focus on the human rights abuses in the North, especially the much-publicized abductions of Japanese citizens to train as North Korean agents.



Dr. Victor Cha, former US National Security Director for Asian Affairs at the White House, sounded a more optimistic note. “The US-ROK alliance remains one of the most underrated,” he said. After a low point in 2002 following death of two Korean girls accidentally run down by a US military vehicle, the alliance has gone from strength to strength, with ROK troops a key US ally in Iraq and playing peace-keeping roles in other nations.



“The key task facing the United States now is to prepare for change in the North,” Cha said. “Kim Jong-il is not well, and there is no clear line of succession. The US and the ROK may very soon need a ‘concept plan’ to deal with the possibility of a collapse or implosion of the regime.”

“The relationship between Korea and the United States is at a new turning point,” said Hon. Hyong O Kim, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly, “and we hope that the election of Barack Obama will provide an opportunity for a new beginning for our two nations.”



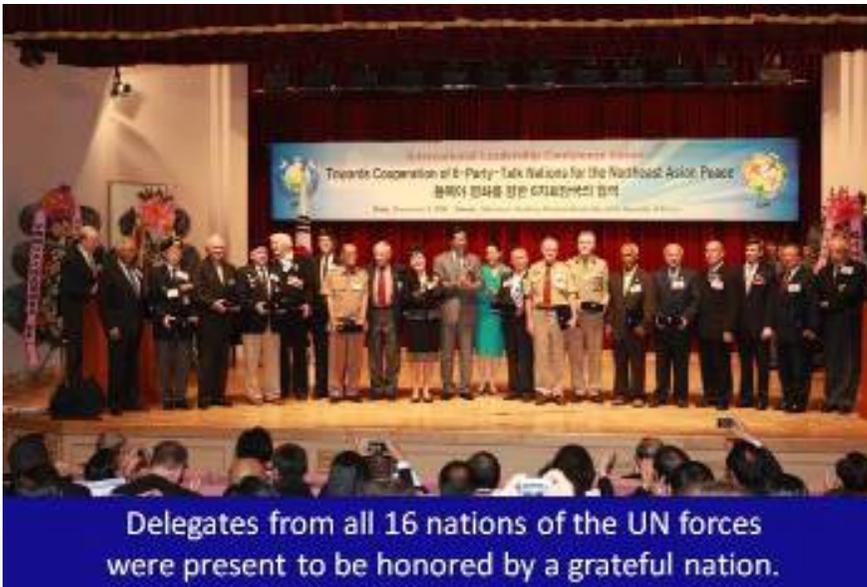
A moving ceremony honored veterans representing the 16 nations of the United Nations Forces that defended South Korea after the 1950 North Korean invasion. “We’re proud to have spilled blood and treasure to help a young nation be free, a decision that has been vindicated by the progress this country has made.” said H.E. Peter Rowe, the Australian Ambassador to Korea in a greeting to the veterans.



“The Philippines is also proud” said Ambassador Luis T. Cruz. “Over 7,000 Filipino soldiers served here in Korea, and for 116 it became their final resting place. We must not let the young generation forget the price of freedom.”



Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, the International President of the Universal Peace Federation, spoke to the need for the inclusion of faith leaders in a new peace process that would bring the conflict on the Korean peninsula to a final conclusion. “We only need to look back to the last century to recognize the futility of tackling the world’s problems through the same old military, economic, political, and diplomatic solutions,” he said. “Dealing with the symptoms of global crisis and conflict and ignoring the root cause just will not work. Without a foundation in the universal principles that come from God, there can be no lasting human rights and no peace.”



Despite Korea's profound spiritual traditions going back over a thousand years, Dr. Moon said that the current situation was worrying. "The fact is that North Korea has become an atheistic, secular society, while here in the South we are seeing religious conflict as an increasing source of tension in our nation," he said. "We are in danger of losing our most valuable spiritual and moral traditions. This is why the vision of 'One Family under God' is so important for Korea at this time."

Rev. Jim Swilley and Bishop William Sheals, leaders of two fast-growing megachurches in the United States, representing the many faith leaders supporting the Global Peace Festival, strongly agreed. "Peace is always possible with God," said Swilley, speaking later that evening at an Opening Banquet for the Global Peace Festival, "even when it seems impossible from the perspective of men."



“Humanity is now entering a new era—the era of heaven that turns the world upside down,” said UPF Founder, the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. “The time of suffering for both God and human beings is coming to an end. We are in a new era of peace when all humanity can live as ‘One Family under God.’”

On Sunday, November 9, the Global Peace Festival took its message of hope and reunification to the streets in a rousing appeal to the citizens of Seoul and Korea to stand up for peace. Tens of thousands came out to voice their support for peaceful reunification.



Dr. Hyun Jin Moon speaks at the Global Peace Festival, Korea. Despite forecasts of rain, the weather was perfect.



“It is no coincidence that today a Korean, Ban Ki-moon, serves as the Secretary-General of the United Nations,” said Dr. Hyun Jin Moon in his GPF keynote address. “I believe that it is God’s will for Korea to work anew with the international community of nations and lead the peace process. Together, we can dare to dream the greatest dream of all, to create ‘One Family under God.’”

Religious leaders from more than a dozen faiths joined an interfaith reconciliation ceremony in front of a cheering and enthusiastic crowd



Interfaith 'peace waters' ceremony is introduced by Dr. Hyung Jin Moon, President of the Family Federation

Challenges Facing US-Korea Relations

Dr. Victor Cha

Director, Asian Studies, and DS Song-Korea Foundation Chair, Georgetown University, United States

The alliance between the US and the Republic of Korea (ROK) remains one of the most underrated alliances in the history of international relations today.

When the alliance was first formed in 1953, there was no preceding history of interaction (aside from minor commercial exchanges and missionary activities in the 1800s) and no common values as a frame of reference. In fact, the US knew virtually nothing about the country when it received the Japanese surrender in the southern half in 1945, and it knew only marginally more when it committed to defend the South in 1950 as a bulwark against communism and a front line of defense for Japan. Korea's value to the US was never intrinsic and always strategic (i.e., keeping it out of the adversary's camp).

After a war that took over 54,000 American lives, Washington found itself with a poor, war-torn ally that US Agency for International Development officials estimated would not advance beyond an agrarian economy. Its leaders, although rabidly anti-communist, trampled upon the rights of their citizens in ways that embarrassed Washington, sometimes compelling the US to intervene quietly to save political dissident leaders from execution.

Even after Korea democratized in 1987, the growth of anti-American sentiment, attacks on American soldiers in Seoul, and the burning of the

American flag by radical Korean students angered many Americans who believed the Koreans were ungrateful and that the alliance's days were numbered.

The alliance, however, has always managed to surprise its critics. An agrarian economy with a post-Korean war income per capita of \$100 morphed into the 12th largest economy with an income per capita over \$20,000 in a matter of decades. The country saw a peaceful democratic transition sweep out decades of military dictatorship that became a model for the developing world.

The South Korean armed forces, trained and equipped by the US, grew to stand with its ally in wars stretching from Vietnam in the 1970s — where the ROK military constituted the largest contingent next to the US — to Iraq in 2007 — where the ROK once constituted the third-largest ground contingent. South Koreans are participating in UN peace-keeping operations missions in Lebanon and in East Timor. They are expanding overseas development assistance and fitting a profile as a standup global citizen.

I want to draw your attention to the most important challenges I see in the near future.

Ratification of the US-ROK free trade agreement (KORUS)

Signed on June 30, 2007, the KORUS Free Trade Agreement is the most commercially significant free trade agreement in over two decades. Korea is the United States' seventh-largest trading partner and the US is Korea's second-largest market.

KORUS constitutes the single largest bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) negotiated by the United States, and the second largest FTA next to the North American Free Trade Agreement. The agreement has clear economic benefits for both sides. Nearly 95 percent of bilateral trade in consumer and industrial products will become duty-free within three years of the agreement.

The economic benefits of the FTA's ratification are clear, but perhaps more important, the agreement represents the elevation of the US-ROK relationship to a higher plane of interaction. Koreans are always looking for ways to improve bilateral ties and increase "trust" in the relationship, and there could be no more important way of doing this than through the FTA.

An inability to ratify this agreement would be seen as an undeniable setback in the evolution and growth of the alliance. Moreover, people underestimate how important the KORUS FTA is to the vision of a larger free trade area of the Asia-Pacific. With the breakdown of multilateral trade forums such as the Doha Round of talks, one scenario for advancing free trade is the cobbling together of bilateral FTAs into a pluri-lateral arrangement. In this regard, the KORUS FTA is seen as a high-quality agreement that could offer a model for other major economic agreements, unlike the superficial FTAs negotiated by China.

Perhaps more important, however, the implications of non-ratification could extend more broadly to the American position in Asia. Protectionist rhetoric out of the US Congress over the last two years is high, and Asians are nervously watching what this all means. America's support of free trade is undeniably one of the components of its leadership and preeminent position in Asia.

A new US administration that opposed free trade and did not act on the KORUS FTA would be recorded in history as being the administration that effectively walked away from free trade, and with this, yielded its leadership position in Asia to China. No FTA is perfect, and the KORUS FTA may have flaws that need to be reviewed, but ratification of this agreement needs to be treated not just as an alliance issue, but as a larger strategic issue for the promotion of free trade in Asia and for the strength of the US position in Asia.

North Korea's nuclear weapons

The US has worked with China, South Korea, Japan, Russia, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to create a denuclearization roadmap, known as the September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks. The first implementation step was taken with the July 2007 shutdown of the Yongbyon nuclear facility from which the DPRK made plutonium for nuclear bombs, and the reintroduction of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the first time in five years.

In accordance with the February 13, 2007 Initial Actions agreement and the October 2007 "Second Phase" agreement, the Six Parties sought to achieve a full declaration (including highly enriched uranium, plutonium, and nuclear devices) and permanent disablement of all DPRK nuclear facilities and activities.

Despite delays, on June 26, 2008, North Korea destroyed the cooling tower at the Yongbyon reactor, and provided a nuclear declaration, effectively taking the world a step further in denuclearizing the DPRK than ever before.

The Clinton administration ended its two terms in office having achieved a freeze-for-compensation formula with international monitoring of Yongbyon in exchange for supplies of heavy fuel oil. The Bush administration leaves to the next administration a status quo that has advanced beyond a freeze of the DPRK nuclear program to a permanent disablement of the plutonium-based facilities at Yongbyon.

As long as the next American president pursues diplomacy (positive and, if necessary, coercive) through the Six Party talks to denuclearize North Korea, this will help to minimize the room for differences with Seoul. A good indicator of this was Seoul's positive response to the Bush administration's October 2008 decision to remove North Korea from the terrorism blacklist in exchange for Pyongyang's agreement on a verification protocol for its June 2008 nuclear declaration.

Many in Washington characterized Bush's decision to prematurely de-list a country he once put in the axis of evil as a move by an administration desperate for good news. The de-listing came after North Korean missile tests, the ejection of international inspectors from previously locked-down nuclear facilities, and some good doses of fiery rhetoric against Seoul.

The ROK, however, viewed it as a positive step that put in place a verification scheme that can facilitate the continued disabling and degrading of the North's nuclear capabilities.

In the end, the capacity for Washington and Seoul to stay on the same page regarding North Korea and the Six Party talks will depend on their relative patience in managing the "dilemma of DPRK unreasonableness." What this means is that Washington and Seoul engage in a Six Party process in which every agreement is negotiated with painstaking care; parties hammer out specific quid pro quos, timelines, and the synchronization of steps, with concomitant rewards and penalties. Yet sooner or later, Pyongyang demands more than it was promised or does less than it should. While everyone accepts that North Korea is being unreasonable, they also realize that a failure of the agreement could mean the failure of the talks and the precipitation of yet another crisis.

At the core of the fall 2008 impasse, for example, was the North's spurious claim that its June nuclear declaration was sufficient for it to be taken off the US terrorism blacklist and that verification of the declaration was not part of the deal. As former deputy negotiator for the US delegation to the Six Party talks, I can attest that the North Koreans fully understood our need for verification as far back as the September 2005 joint statement and the February 2007 "first phase" and October 2007 "second phase" implementation agreements, as did Seoul and the other participants.

Yet while all express outrage at Pyongyang's petulance when it reneges on agreements, the parties, including South Korea, end up pressing the

United States — knowing full well that the North is at fault and is traversing the bounds of fairness and good faith but certain that the only chance of progress lies in American reasonableness. The result is that any additional American flexibility is widely perceived in the region as evidence of American leadership but is viewed in Washington as some combination of desperation and weakness. How well Seoul and Washington manage this balance will be important.

Human rights

Human rights is one aspect of the DPRK problem on which the US and ROK have hardly been on the same page. During the Kim Young Sam presidency, the ROK took a fairly tough line on human rights abuses by the DPRK, demanding among other things that Pyongyang return South Korean prisoners of war. Kim also criticized the Clinton administration for moving forward with its nuclear and political talks with the North in spite of ROK concerns.

Some ten years later, George W. Bush made North Korea human rights abuses a major part of his policy, appointing the first-ever special envoy for DPRK human rights abuses, overseeing the creation of programs for the first-ever resettlement of DPRK refugees in the United States, and inviting North Korean defectors into the Oval Office.

Having seen President Bush interact with these individuals, I believe his concerns for the people of North Korea were truly heartfelt. Yet in terms of alliance relations, Bush's emphasis on human rights did not sit well with the Kim Dae Jung or Roh Moo Hyun governments, who perceived many of these US actions as code for a neoconservative desire to collapse the regime. Seoul categorically refused to make critical statements about DPRK human rights abuses, refused to vote for UN resolutions, and only with great difficulty agreed to language in US-ROK joint statements discussing the dire conditions of the North Korean people.

A new US administration and the current Lee government in South Korea have the opportunity to reboot and realign their relative positions on human rights. Bush and Lee, both deeply religious men, took a step in this direction, agreeing to include a specific reference to DPRK human rights problems in their 2008 joint statement. And the ROK under Lee has voted for the annual UN resolution on North Korean human rights abuses (previous ROK governments did not). But there is clearly room for more coordination here. Seoul could appoint its own special envoy for DPRK human rights, who could host the first international conference on the issue. Washington and Seoul could explore ways to integrate better the relief of the North Korean people's suffering into the otherwise sterile nuclear negotiations.

Whatever the specific measures, the benchmark for the US and the ROK should be to move beyond an agreement in words to achieving measurable steps that improve the lives of the people in the North.

Preparation for change in North Korea.

Kim Jong Il is not well. While it is difficult to confirm anything, it is fairly clear that the 66-year-old dictator's physical well-being has reached a tipping point. He underwent at least one heart procedure in 2007 and likely another in 2008, based on foreign press reports. Already partially paralyzed, another stroke could be fatal. Unlike the last leadership transition, there is no clear line of succession to any of his three sons.

The upshot for the US-ROK alliance is the need to begin quiet but serious discussions about how to prepare for sudden change in North Korea. While there are well-laid plans to deal with a second North Korean invasion, there is a less well-developed discussion on how to contend with a collapse or implosion of the regime. During the Roh Moo Hyun government, moreover, coordination between the two allies on this issue was stopped by Seoul. The concern at the time by Roh was that such planning could be interpreted by the North as an active plan to collapse the regime, which would negatively impact Seoul's much-desired North-

South engagement and could impact Pyongyang's cooperation in Six Party talks.

Such planning needs to be restarted in earnest and in depth. A whole host of questions about metrics and the division of responsibilities would have to be on the table. Here is just a sampling: How does one determine whether the loss of political control in the North is severe enough to warrant intervention by outside powers? Upon what authority should such an intervention take place: US-ROK alliance, Six Party talks, United Nations? What would be the division of labor in an intervention?

The primary forum for this coordination should begin with the US-ROK alliance. Once agreement is reached, the circle should expand to a trilateral consultation including Japan. Following this, coordination should begin among the US, ROK, and China. The commodity sought through such US-ROK-China planning discussions is not trust (an over-used term in Asian diplomacy); instead, it is transparency. Transparency — knowing what the other side is doing in a contingency and why they are doing it — is the most valuable commodity in a crisis. South Korea might balk at involving so many parties in what Koreans believe to be their national destiny. However, a collapse of the North is simply too significant an event not to warrant international attention, and Koreans would be best advised to actively engage in such multilateral planning in order to shape such a plan to their own interests and expertise.

One can appreciate the political sensitivity of such discussions. Planning in the event of a collapse in the North could easily be misinterpreted as planning to collapse the North. But such talks need to take place quietly. Whatever “plan” that emerges could easily be rendered moot on the first day of the crisis; however, the process of planning helps to create dialogue and some sense of familiarity with each other's intentions and priorities. The value of such transparency cannot be overestimated.

Conclusion

Koreans have long believed their national division is a historical aberration, and have long sought unification albeit at some distant time in the future. However, their wishes may be fulfilled sooner than they think. Multilateral planning for such an event among the United States, Korea, and China would be both wise and expedient. Otherwise, what is always seen as “tomorrow’s dream,” could soon become “today’s problem.”

GPF Korea Keynote Speech

Yoido Plaza

November 9, 2008

Honored guests from around the world, Ladies and Gentlemen; welcome to Global Peace Festival in beautiful Seoul, Korea!

Over the last few days, the eyes of the world have been focused on the presidential elections in the United States, hoping to witness history in the making.

“Change, yes we can” has become the slogan of not only a successful campaign but a message of hope at a time of national and global crisis.

Of course, change for the sake of change is not enough. The goal and direction of that change is far more important. In this time where hope and expectation are mixed with uncertainty, the Global Peace Festivals are providing a new vision and direction for a fast-growing international movement of peace.

At the Global Peace Festival in Paraguay, we helped smooth the first democratic transfer of power between civilian governments in that South American nation.

At the Global Peace Festival in Kenya, Prime Minister Raila Odinga said that our efforts had played an important role in ending violence after disputed elections brought rival tribes to the brink of civil war.

In Mongolia, another nation recovering from post-election violence, the President of Mongolia and leader of the People’s Revolutionary Party told us that the vision of One Family Under God was absolutely needed for the spiritual life and development of his country.

In Mindanao, Philippines, where religious strife has been the most intense, we managed to bring Christians and Muslims together through the Global Peace Festival. The Governor of Mindanao said that this effort represented the best hope for reconciling long-standing religious conflicts.

At the Global Peace Festival in Malaysia, a Muslim nation with several prominent religious minorities, the Honorable Mahathir Mohammed, who served as Prime Minister for 22 years, said that the time had come for the leaders of Islam and all religions to make a new commitment to work together. Tens of thousands came out to pledge that Malaysia would become a world capital for peace.

The Global Peace Festival is all the more relevant here in Korea, a peninsula and a people divided for more than half a century. The world is looking to us, the last divided nation on earth, to quickly unite and to take a leading role to bring this region and the world to peace and prosperity.

In order to articulate a meaningful vision for peace, we need to admit that we have to be bold and break new ground if we are to go beyond the failures of our past.

We only need to look back to the last century to recognize the futility of tackling the world's problems through the same old military, economic, political and diplomatic solutions. Dealing with only the symptoms of global crisis and conflict and ignoring the root cause just will not work.

Conflict begins when we fail to follow the dictates of our conscience and fail to recognize our common heritage in God. That is why even the grand vision behind the League of Nations, and later the United Nations was unable to prevent the 20th century from being the bloodiest era in human history.

When we consider the number of wars and conflicts that continue to plague humanity, it is clear that the world needs a new vision of peace for

the 21st Century. Unlike the secular thinking of our recent past, it should be a spiritual vision, rooted in time-enduring values.

That vision is “One Family under God!”

The one who has taken on the mantle to champion this vision around the world is none other than my father, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon.

After receiving this revelation on a cold Easter Sunday, seventy three years ago, he has devoted his entire life, resources and wealth to the fulfillment of that dream. To my father, the dream of building “One Family under God” is not the dream of just one man, one woman, or one family but a dream that belongs to all humanity and, most of all, to God.

The Importance of the Family

Let us take a moment and think about family. The family represents the most intimate of human relationships. We use familial terms to describe the closeness of any relationship saying, “that person is like my father, like my mother, my brother, my sister, my son and like my daughter.”

The model of the extended family as the foundation for a stable society and nation is an important part of Korean culture. Our traditions of filial piety and respect for elders are significant contributions to human civilization.

The family is the school of love. We love our family in order to learn to love humanity in its richness and diversity. Before we call ourselves Buddhist, Christian or Confucian, or see ourselves as black, white, or yellow, or identify ourselves as Korean, American or Japanese, we are first and foremost the sons and daughters of God and members of his eternal family.

We should own the dream to realize “One Family under God” one family at a time, by uplifting all families beyond race, nationality or creed.

The Unification of Korea

This vision of “One Family under God” is deeply rooted in Korea’s spiritual heritage. One of the oldest civilizations on earth, Korean history begins with the creation myth of Tangun.

The idea of God or heaven was the unifying theme in the formation of this nation and its people, and has always been seen as the force that molded its national character and sense of destiny. This national spirit to align to a Heavenly Will has made Korea a model nation of religious harmony and tolerance, allowing all faiths to flourish here in Korea unlike anywhere else in the world.

Today, however the fact is that North Korea has become an atheistic, secular society. Here in the South, for the first time we are seeing religious conflict as a source of tension in our nation.

The tragic breakdown of so many Korean marriages and families is another worrying development that represents a deep fracture in our national psyche.

We are in danger of losing our most valuable spiritual and moral traditions. This is why the vision of “One Family under God” is so important for Korea at this time.

33 years ago, my father gathered more than one million Korean citizens, and thousands of delegates from 60 nations and every religious tradition for an epic freedom rally right here at Yoido Plaza.

On that memorable day, he warned that the ideology of secular humanism could never bring peace in our nation. He said national unification could only take place when we realize we are all the children of God, with equal rights and responsibilities before heaven.

When that happens, Korea will become a nation that could lead all the people of the world to peace. Through the Global Peace Festival, we

are gathering once again to awaken this nation to fulfill its providential calling.

A New Interfaith Initiative

Religious and spiritual leaders must lead this peace process. Instead of advocating their own narrow doctrinal perspective, they must help all people of faith to recognize the shared values and principles that come from our common heritage in one God.

Through the Universal Peace Federation's interfaith gatherings in the Middle East, Christians, Muslims and Jews are rediscovering their common heritage in Abraham. They are realizing that they have more in common than the issues that currently divide them, and that they are brothers and sisters of faith longing equally for peace and reconciliation.

We have discovered that relations between faith traditions are not about mere toleration of one another's prayers and rituals. A true interfaith experience is a celebration of the core principles that bind all God-affirming people together as one family.

All human beings are endowed with inalienable human rights that come from the creator. Without God, there can be no lasting peace. Therefore, our religious leaders must come together to lead this nation to return to its spiritual roots and recognize the sovereignty of God.

In fact, this is the dream of all people of faith. Korea, with its unique cultural and spiritual traditions should be the leading nation in bringing this dream to fruition under the banner of One Family Under God.

The Impact of GPF

Creating a culture of service is another core goal of the Global Peace Festival and a necessary step for peace. We are creating a new spirit of volunteerism and peaceful cooperation around the world, and changing nations with this vision of peace.

In Paraguay, more than 10,000 high school and college students spent weeks cleaning almost every park in the capital city of Asunción.

At the Global Peace Festival in Washington, DC, we worked with the Boys and Girls Clubs and the Points of Light Institute as well as many local charities to feed the hungry and less fortunate in the America's capital.

In Kenya more than 70,000 volunteers helped clean the polluted banks of the Nairobi River, known as the dirtiest river in Africa. In Mongolia, volunteers from Service for Peace and a dozen other agencies are working all over the country in the spirit of living for the sake of others.

In Malaysia, college and high school students initiated the "Power of 10 cents anti-poverty drive" in support of the UN Millennium Development Goals. In Albania, thousands have joined the "One Student One Tree" tree planting project.

Here in Korea, we are working to create sister relationships between North and South Korean cities through a grass roots service movement. The Mayor of Suwon has already committed to supporting this project, and I would encourage other cities to do the same so it can be expanded throughout the nation.

In this way we can bring reconciliation and peace to our divided national family. Taking this one step further, I'd like to see Korea's faith-based and community partners joining with those of other countries to establish a Global Peace Corps.

Imagine if young people from enemy nations worked side by side in service. Any misunderstandings and hatred that existed would fade away as they sweat, cry and laugh together with a common purpose and cause.

As we gather here for the Global Peace Festival in Seoul Korea, we must revive our nation's proud traditions and expand this dream of peace throughout the peninsula, the region and the world through the universal vision of "One Family under God."

This should be the clarion call of our age! As my father said in a recent Peace Message, the time has come:

“to tear down the man-made walls of race, culture, religion and country, and establish the peaceful, ideal world of God’s cherished desire.”

The power of one human family united, can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world--from the strife and poverty of Africa, to the conflict in the Middle East, and the final remnant of the Cold War here on the Korean Peninsula.

We stand at the threshold of a new “Pacific Rim” era, an age of lasting peace that is beginning here in Asia.

It is no coincidence that today a Korean, Ban Ki-moon, serves as the Secretary General of the United Nations. I believe that it is God’s Will for Korea to work with the international community of nations and lead the peace process.

As Koreans and citizens of the world, let us make a solemn pledge under the steadfast gaze of our ancestors to dream the greatest dream of all, and own the vision of “One Family under God.”

Then, surely as light overcomes the darkness, an era of peace and prosperity will emerge from the depths of distrust and hatred both at home and in the far corners of our world.

Together, we can dare to dream the greatest dream of all!

Let us own the dream to create “One Family under God.”

May God bless you and your family, and may God bless this great nation of Korea!

Thank you very much!

TOKYO, JAPAN
November 15-18, 2008

Fifty Thousand Stand Up for Peace

Tokyo, Japan: Nov 15: Fifty thousand people crammed in to Tokyo's Ajinomoto Stadium for the latest in a series of spectacular successes for the Global Peace Festival. One of the largest interfaith gatherings ever held in Japan highlighted months of community service and outreach aimed at encouraging Japan, already a strong player in aid and environmental issues, to become a global force for peace.



On a cool afternoon that threatened rain, an excited crowd was kept happy by a wide variety of entertainers, including several Japanese TV personalities, Mongolian singing sensation Nominjin, who had performed at the Global Peace Festival in Ulaanbaatar in September, and the Kawagoe Fuji Children's Drum Groups.



In his welcoming remarks, Professor Hiroo Suzuki, Chair of the GPF Japan Executive Committee, thanked the more than 100 local NGO and community service partners, and presented awards to five of them for exemplary work in support of the UN Millennium Development Goals. Notable among the many community service projects held nationwide in the weeks before the Global Peace Festival was a bottle-cap-recycling drive started by schoolchildren in the Tokyo area. Spurred on by a goal of collecting 400 caps each, more than a million caps were turned in by children who arrived at the stadium, enough to provide vaccinations for thousands of needy children throughout Asia.

Suzuki also welcomed the large delegation from the International Leadership Conference, which included former heads of state, as well as congressional and religious leaders from 55 countries. Religious leaders joined in the popular “merging of the waters” ceremony for the unity and harmony of the world’s major faiths.



Welcoming remarks from Dr. Hiroo Suzuki,
Chair, GPF Japan Executive Committee



The interfaith prayer and reconciliation ceremony
is a popular highlight of every GPF.

Among the keynote speakers at the Festival, Jose de Venecia, Jr. long-term Speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives, suggested that the “Golden Rule” – basically, do unto others as you would like them to do unto you – is a common ethic in all religious traditions and thus could be the basis for a new peace ethic to be promoted in the United Nations and in governments around the world.



Jose de Venecia Jr. , the long-term speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives

“No nation is doing more for global peace than Japan, whose foreign policy is focused on helping reduce poverty in the world,” said de Venecia, “but no democracy, or any other governmental system, can succeed without a moral basis, without moral moorings, without a spiritual dimension, without a global ethic, without moral values.”

The Global Peace Festival Chair, Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, also praised Japan for its strong record of Official Development Aid, and called for ordinary Japanese citizens to become more involved in voluntary peacemaking and service efforts both in Japan and on the world stage.

“I’d like to see Japan’s community and volunteer partners joining with those of other countries to establish a Global Peace Corps,” he said. “Imagine if young people from enemy nations worked side by side in service. Any initial misunderstandings and hatred would fade away as they sweat, cry, and laugh together with a common purpose and cause.”



Dr. Hyun Jin Moon encourages Japan to match its economic progress with moral and spiritual leadership.

The Global Peace Festival moves on this week from Tokyo to London, followed by the Solomon Islands, Brazil, and the Philippines. By the end of the year, organizers estimate that over a million people will have joined the festival worldwide.

We Need to Accept Others, Not Just Tolerate Them

Hon. Eduardo Faleiro

Commissioner for Non-resident Indian Affairs, Government of Goa, India

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, conflicts are no longer on ideological grounds but are basically — or supposedly — about religious differences. Therefore, if we want to bring peace to this world in our time, religious harmony is crucial. We must understand that all religions are different expressions of the same human desire to attain the absolute.

When the UN was created, religion didn't have the same importance in the world polity that it has today; rather, it was a personal matter. But now it is on the public platform; it's in the political dialogue. It's so very important to have an interreligious council at the UN. It's important to get religious leaders to communicate and to agree on what should be done to keep harmony, build peace, and bring people together.

The United Nations should not only deal with human rights. The time has come to understand that every right involves a responsibility. As Einstein said, whatever we are is because of others. Gandhi also said that whatever happiness we have, we owe to others. Therefore, we have responsibility toward others, not only rights. What others can do for us is just as important as what we can and must do for others.

We have come a long way since the time the United Nations was created. Now, it is necessary to democratize the United Nations and particularly the Security Council. India is the second most populous country in the world and represents almost one-fifth of humankind; it should therefore have a seat on the Security Council. So also should Japan, Bra-

zil, and Germany, just to mention a few. Whatever the composition of the new Security Council will be, Africa and the Islamic world should also have some voice. Democracy is not only a process within nations, but also among nations.

Training in conflict resolution is extremely important. Values need to be instilled in people when they are young. Therefore, we must promote peace education.

We need religious education that teaches children more than just their own religion. They should learn about other religions and understand that all religions are different expressions of the same desire for God. All religions fundamentally say, expect, and preach the same things.

On the question of tolerance, I think we have to move beyond tolerance of other religions to acceptance. We should not just tolerate other people but accept them as we accept ourselves.

GPF Keynote Address Tokyo

Ajinomoto Stadium

November 15, 2008

Honored guests from around the world, Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to the Global Peace Festival in beautiful Tokyo, Japan!

Over the last few days, the eyes of the world have been focused on the results of the presidential elections in the United States, hoping to witness history in the making.

“Change, yes we can” has become the slogan of not only a successful campaign but also a message of hope at a time of national and global crisis. Of course, change for the sake of change is not enough. The goal and direction of that change is far more important.

In this time where hope and expectation are mixed with uncertainty, the Global Peace Festivals are providing new vision and direction for a fast-growing international movement of peace.

The Impact of GPF

At the Global Peace Festival in Paraguay, we helped smooth the first peaceful and democratic transfer of power between civilian governments in that South American nation.

In Kenya, Prime Minister Raila Odinga said our efforts played an important role in ending violence after disputed elections had rival tribes at the brink of civil war.

The President of Mongolia, the leader of the People’s Revolutionary Party, told us that the vision of the Global Peace Festival was absolutely

needed for the spiritual life and development of his country as it recovered from post-election violence.

In Mindanao, Philippines, where religious strife has been the most intense, we managed to bring Christians and Muslims together through the Global Peace Festival. The Governor of Mindanao said that this effort represented the best hope for reconciling long-standing conflicts.

In Malaysia, a Muslim nation with several prominent minorities, the Honorable Mahathir Mohammed, Prime Minister for 22 years, said the leaders of Islam and all religions must make a new commitment to work together. Tens of thousands came out to pledge that Malaysia would become the Southeast Asia capital for peace.

Just a few days ago in Korea, where religious conflict has recently emerged as yet another obstacle to reunification, we challenged religious leaders to move beyond narrow sectarian thinking in order to bring the last divided nation on earth together as one.

Without peace on the Korean peninsula, there can be no peace or lasting security for Japan. Japan must take a leading role in bringing peace to Northeast Asia and all the nations of the Pacific Rim.

The need for a new vision

To articulate a meaningful vision for peace, we need to admit that we have to be bold and break new ground if we are to go beyond the failures of our past. We only need to look back to the last century to recognize the futility of tackling the world's problems through the same old military, economic, political and diplomatic solutions.

Dealing with only the symptoms of global crisis and ignoring the root cause just will not work. Conflict begins when we fail to follow the dictates of our conscience and fail to recognize our common heritage in God.

That is why even the grand vision behind the League of Nations, and later the United Nations was unable to prevent the 20th century from being the bloodiest era in human history.

When we consider the number of wars and conflicts that plague humanity, it is clear that the world needs a new vision for the 21st Century. Unlike the secular thinking of our past, this should be a spiritual vision, rooted in time-enduring values. That vision is “One Family under God!”

The one who has taken on the mantle to champion this vision around the world is none other than my father, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon. He has devoted his entire life and resources to the fulfillment of that dream.

To my father, the dream of building “One Family under God” is not the dream of just one man, one woman, or one family but the dream that belongs to all humanity and, most of all, to God.

The True Family Model for Peace

Why is the family the cornerstone of peace? First and foremost, the family is universal. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality and religion we are all members of families.

Secondly, the family represents the most intimate of human relationships. We use familial terms to describe the closeness of any relationship saying, “that person is like my father, like my mother, my brother, my sister, my son and like my daughter.”

The family is the school of love where we can learn to love humanity in its richness and diversity. Filial piety, respect for elders and the extended family as well as the society has been one of the most notable and beautiful traditions of Japan.

Today however, there are many worrying trends in Japanese society. Young people have been involved in all kinds of bizarre crimes that have been sensationalized even in the international media.

The tragic breakdown of so many Japanese families is another profound challenge. Marriage and family are the fundamental building blocks of any society, but Japan, like Korea and the United States, is in danger of losing her most valuable institutions and traditions.

Interfaith efforts for Peace

Many great minds agree that the greatest threat to global peace and development today is religious narrow-mindedness. This week at the United Nations, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, President George Bush and other international leaders are meeting in high-level session to discuss the urgency of a new interfaith effort to create peace.

Promoting genuine interfaith understanding is an important goal of the Global Peace Festival. Through the Universal Peace Federation's work in the Middle East, Christians, Muslims and Jews are rediscovering their common heritage in Abraham.

They are realizing that they have more in common than the issues that currently divide them, and are brothers and sisters of faith longing equally for peace and reconciliation.

We have discovered that relations between faith traditions are not about mere toleration of one another's prayers and rituals. A true interfaith experience is a celebration of the core principles that bind all people together as one family.

Before we call ourselves Christian, Buddhist or Shinto, or see ourselves as black, white, or yellow, or identify ourselves as Japanese, Korean, American, we are the sons and daughters of God and members of his eternal family.

Maintaining harmonious and productive relationships between the many different races, religions and creeds will be one of the most significant challenges facing all nations in the Pacific Rim Era.

There are already more than two million foreign residents living in Japan, and the number is growing all time. Japan must now become a leader in developing a society of peaceful coexistence and cooperation. The best way to do that is through creating One Family Under God.

Japan and the Culture of Service

Japan is already one of the most generous nations on earth in terms of foreign aid. For example, at the recent TICAD 4 conference in Yokohama, Japan again affirmed its commitment to the long term development of Africa. Moreover, Japan is without doubt a world leader in economics, technology and science. This year Japanese scientists won no less than four Nobel prizes.

However, to fulfill its true potential and destiny as a nation that can help usher in a new world of peace, Japan must now develop its moral and spiritual leadership to the same degree.

Building a culture of service is another core goal of the Global Peace Festival and a vital step for peace. We are creating a new spirit of volunteerism and peaceful cooperation around the world, and changing nations with the exciting vision of living for the sake of others.

In Paraguay, more than 10,000 high school and college students spent weeks cleaning almost every park in the capital city of Asunción. At the Global Peace Festival in Washington, DC, we worked to feed the hungry and less fortunate in America's capital.

In Kenya more than 70,000 volunteers helped clean the polluted banks of the Nairobi River, known as the "dirtiest river in Africa." In Mongolia, volunteers from Service for Peace and a dozen other agencies are working all over the country in the spirit of living for the sake of others. In Malaysia, high school and college students started the "Power of 10 cents anti-poverty drive" in support of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

In Albania, thousands have joined the “One Student One Tree” project to reverse decades of environmental neglect. In Korea, we are working to create sister relationships between North and South Korean cities through a grass roots service movement.

Here in Japan, we have been working on a million family volunteer campaign to support the “Love Nature” clean up project. We are collecting bottle caps to pay for inoculations for children in other nations. To everyone who has joined us, I’d like to say a heartfelt “Thank You!” Looking to the future, I’d like to see Japan’s community and volunteer partners joining with those of other countries to establish a Global Peace Corps.

Imagine if young people from enemy nations worked side by side in service. Any initial misunderstandings and hatred would fade away as they sweat, cry and laugh together with a common purpose and cause.

Call to Action

As we gather here for the Global Peace Festival in Japan, we must revive this nation’s proud traditions and expand her dreams of peace onto a global stage through the universal vision of “One Family under God.” This should be the clarion call of our age! As my father said in a recent Peace Message, the time has come:

“to tear down the man-made walls of race, culture, religion and country, and establish the peaceful, ideal world of God’s cherished desire.”

The power of one human family united can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world. It can end the strife and poverty of Africa, the conflict in the Middle East, and the final remnant of the Cold War on the Korean Peninsula.

As the world enters a new Pacific Rim Era, Japan must stand up as a champion of the dream of peace. Under the steadfast gaze of our ances-

tors, let us make a solemn pledge to dream the biggest dream of all, to lead the world to peace through the vision of “One Family under God.”

Then, as surely as light overcomes the darkness, an era of peace and prosperity will emerge from the depths of distrust and hatred both here in Japan and in the far corners of our world. Together, we can dare to dream the greatest dream of all! Let us own the dream to create “One Family under God.”

May God bless you and your family, and may God bless this great nation of Japan! Thank you very much!.

LONDON, ENGLAND
November 19-23, 2008

London GPF Opens in the House of Commons

The London Global Peace Festival (GPF) began with a standing-room only plenary discussion hosted at the House of Commons in the Palace of Westminster on the topic “New Paradigm in a Time of Global Crisis.” The discussion, which featured several representatives from Europe, Africa and the Middle East, was hosted in the House of Commons by Dave Anderson, MP.

Anderson, who represents Blaydon in Northeast England, recently attended the GPF in Kenya and warmly welcomed the delegates from over 50 nations. “People who want to make a difference in this world are welcome in this House,” he said.



“This work is most important if we are to find peace,” said Rev. Marcus Braybooke, President of the World Council of Religions, the opening speaker, “We must address the moral vacuum at the center of our society and we need leaders whose humility is reflected in their public and private life.”



The Hon. Dave Anderson, MP, chair Opening Plenary, tells the ILC delegates “You are welcome in this house.”



The Hon. Amjad Ali Majali, MP from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan expressed profound frustration with the slow pace of change in the Middle East. “We have to make a frank and objective assessment of current peace strategies in our region,” he said. “They are not working, and terrorism and extremism are almost unaffected. We need to build up an infrastructure for peace and we desperately need to teach our youth about peaceful coexistence. In short, we need a ‘new moon’ of peace”



Participants consider the challenge of bringing a lasting peace to Israel, Palestine and Jordan

“Obviously we all agree that good governance is desirable” said Ahmed Kabbah, President of Sierra Leone for eight years until 2007. “Leaders should always realize that they are servants of the people, including their own staff and associates. However, making good governance an absolute prerequisite for financial aid and support for peaceful development still may not be the best policy. In times of crisis, people who are already suffering from the consequences of bad leadership decisions should not have to pay an additional price.”



Mrs. Ida Odinga, wife of Prime Minister Raila Odinga, speaks on the significant impact of the GPF in Kenya.

The next speaker was Mrs. Ida Odinga, wife of the Prime Minister of Kenya, the Hon. Raila Odinga and herself chair of Kenya's league of women voters. "Kenya has seen great changes in the past decade, moving from single party rule to a multiparty democracy and the current governing coalition" she said.

"But after the unexpected outburst of post-election violence last year, we realize that our work is just beginning. Now Zimbabwe is facing the same kind of crisis that we overcame last year, and I hope our example, and the record speed in which we struck a peace deal, will be instructive."

Mrs. Odinga also noted that the work of the International Leadership Conference, and the success of the recent Global Peace Festival in Nairobi had also played an important part in stabilizing the country

Anton Rop, Prime Minister of Slovenia 2002-2004, spoke about the new challenges posed to peace by the current global financial crisis. “The well-being of entire nations is being threatened by what Warren Buffet has termed ‘weapons of financial mass-destruction’” he said..



Dr. Hyun Jin Moon explains about the three main themes of the GPF: Family, Interfaith and Service

“The task of building a world of peace must start with faith leaders and people of faith,” said Dr. Hyun Jin Moon in his keynote address. “My Father has always believed that God works through all faith traditions. We need to identify, promote and celebrate our many common and universal principles, and work to create One Family Under God, one family at a time.”

Global Peace Festival in London Opens New Partnerships

The Global Peace Festival in London brought together Ambassadors for Peace from throughout Europe, Africa, and the Middle East to a wide range activities from conferences in elegant settings to service projects in inner-city parks and a rousing concert in the ExCel center, one of London's newest and hottest venues.



The International Leadership Conference in the legendary Palm Court Terrace at the London Waldorf Hotel. A favorite retreat for Oscar Wilde and other literary giants, the room also doubled as the state room in the 1954 film, Titanic

Senior statesmen spoke about their experiences addressing a variety of conflict situations, hoping that a new generation of leaders will benefit from their insights. Jan-Willem Bertens, a former Dutch Ambassador in Central America, described working behind the scenes to defuse tensions and bring armed conflicting parties together. H.E. Alfred Moisiu, former president of Albania, talked about ways people in the Balkans have been working together to rise above historic conflicts.

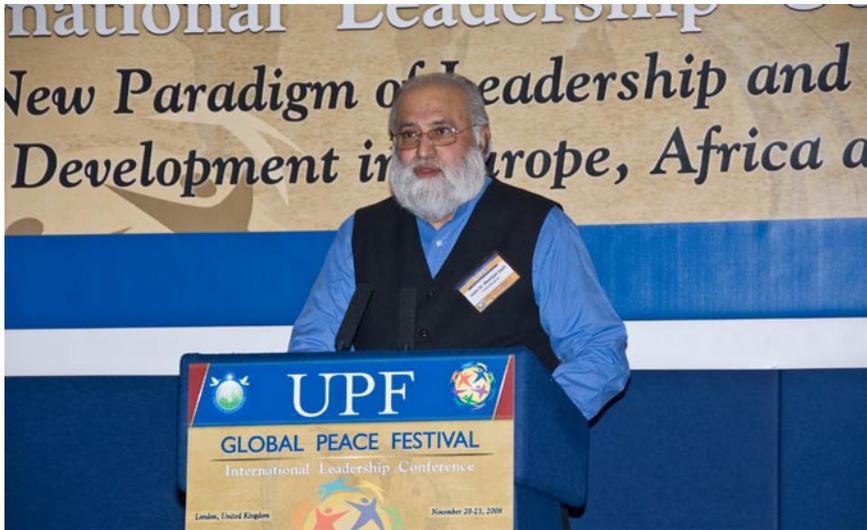


Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, Secretary General of UPF welcomes HE Makarim Wibisono to London

Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, Secretary General of UPF, spoke about the needs for a universal values-based approach to form a basis for people of diverse races, religions, and nations to live together in peace. Mwalagho Kililo, Secretary General, UPF-Africa, explored the spiritual foundations of leadership and presentations about UPF's understanding of the root cause of conflict and the principles of restoration were given by Mr. Jack Corley and Mr. Michael Balcomb.

Other speakers included Ambassador Makarim Wibisono, former president of the UN Human Rights Council, and Rev. Marcus Braybrooke of the World Peace Council, who spoke about the spiritual impulse behind the creation of the United Nations. Youth representatives from six religious traditions said that young people had a particular responsibility and opportunity to move beyond barriers created by differing religious practices and rituals, and allow the wisdom and universal values of their religions to promote human rights and dignity.

A second session reviewed the quest for common values in Europe throughout 2008, which has been designated the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Iman Abduljalil Sajid, Chair of the Task Force for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, challenged the audience to seek new opportunities for interaction among different cultures.



Focus groups addressed topics of broad interest: women's peace initiatives, marriage and family, interfaith, community cohesion, peace and development, and the environment.

Two Members of Parliament from the UK and one from Germany spoke at the Community Cohesion focus group on issues facing immigrant and minority communities. Tom Brake talked about countering the growing alienation, segregation, and lack of cohesion in his own district in England as well as urban Europe in general. Andrew Pelling described the need to offer young people positive role models and direction, and Bayram Inan described the challenges facing Turkish immigrants in Germany. Service project organizers, women activists, and religious leaders described ways they are building ongoing connections among people of diverse social, economic, and religious backgrounds.



Interfaith leaders prepare for the 'mixing of the waters' reconciliation ceremony

At the Interfaith focus group, various approaches to interfaith work were presented. Speakers explored the potential benefits that cultural diversity can bring to communities, emphasizing the need to incorporate the entire spectrum of a community in ways that address the needs of all. Examples were given of bringing people together through housing projects in Northern Ireland and interfaith youth service projects.



The Main Event

At 4:30 PM people began entering the exhibition hall at the ExCel Centre for the main event. Art exhibits and a dozen information booths from various GPF partners on themes of peace attracted much attention.



The 3,000 seats in the auditorium quickly filled up, and another 1,000 people watched the program on a screen in an overflow room. Musicians from various backgrounds and styles performed, to the delight of the audience. Dhol drums and bagpipes opened with an exciting East/West fusion performance, followed by the string section of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by David Eaton playing Britten's "Simple Symphony."



Top Muslim singer Dawud Wharshby invites the crowd to reflect on values



The WAIT Performing Arts Team spreads an HIV / AIDS prevention message in dance.



Spectacular ball control by World Free Style Football Champion, John Farnsworth



Patti Boulaye and the Boulettes keep the crowd on their feet with the 'Locomotion'

Jhr. Drs. Pieter Beelaerts van Blokland, a former Dutch government minister, welcomed Global Peace Festival founder Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, who spoke extemporaneously on the theme of “One Family Under God,” a message he has been delivering throughout the year to Global Peace Festivals on five continents. He called upon the crowd to make a commitment to interfaith unity, strong families, and selfless service.

This keynote address was followed by Beatles tribute band, Bernie and the Peacemakers featuring Simon and Jo, Twist and Jive champion dancers. The music and the moves proved irresistible, and people of all ages got out of their seats to dance and mingle with one another to some of the most memorable songs. For once, it was not a Hard Day’s Night, and the evening concluded happily with the appointments of many new Ambassadors for Peace.

Following the success of GPF London, organizers say they are already making plans for a much larger festival in 2010.



Presentation of the
Ambassador for Peace Award

Prospects for Multiculturalism and Community Cohesion

Mr. Ted Cattle

Chair, Community Cohesion Institute, United Kingdom

Most Western democracies have been “multicultural” for some 50 years and have gradually developed and extended equal opportunities programs and antidiscrimination legislation over that time. Despite this, many of our minorities are amongst the most disadvantaged sectors of our community and still experience prejudice and unequal life chances. Segregation — a term which has taken on different meanings — is not being broken down and may even be getting worse, and we are now encountering a rise in interethnic conflict, based upon separate identities which are more readily reinforced by transnational and diasporic affinities. The gradual integration and cohesion of society has been set back, and there are new questions about the value of multiculturalism and its impact on civic and social solidarity.

Multiculturalism and identity

The concept of “multiculturalism” is certainly no longer adequate to describe the extent and nature of diversity, and Trevor Phillips, Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality, has called for it to be “scrapped” because of the way it has been used as a means of legitimizing separateness and division. “Multiculturalism,” however, did succeed in emphasizing that “difference” should be respected and celebrated, rather than feared. In that sense, it was helpful as a means of tackling racist views and confronting prejudice. But it has also been used as to justify a wide range of

differences — economic, political, social, cultural, physical, etc. — and it conflates concepts of nationality, national identity, and group and personal affinities. Over the years it has done little to promote any sense of commonality and help build bridges between different communities.

Many proponents of multiculturalism have become so used to resisting attacks on minorities that they will defend all differences automatically, as though cultural attributes are “natural” and are all worthy of defense (and even though they may have supported more liberal principles in another context, which would have undermined these differences). People are not made up of genetically defined groups, and the ethnic, faith, and other boundaries that we create — and defend — are almost entirely socially and politically defined. The idea of “people like us” is a dangerous concept — which even liberal commentators have been guilty of using — and having broken down the myth of separate “races,” we are in danger of creating “primordial” faith and ethnic divisions.

In reality, there are many different conceptions of both majority and minority cultures and as much variation within “cultures” as there is between them. Some may even lack the coherence to be called a “culture,” and what do we mean by “culture” anyway? But when identity is instrumentalized and under threat — and this can be in respect of either the majority and minority groups — we fall back on an exaggerated, almost stereotypical, view of ourselves. We inevitably emphasize our differences rather than what we have in common.

The search for identity, then, is like chasing shadows, and much greater emphasis should be placed on how we actually relate to each other, allowing relationships to grow. This should develop in the form of a common sense of belonging and is not restricted to “common culture.” Society also grows from political interaction between the state and individuals and among individuals themselves. The ongoing debate about expenditure priorities, the extent and nature of welfare provision, the regulation of the local environment and the economy as a whole, as much

as the everyday discourse of social activities, builds a policy unity — even if only a framework within which we can disagree. Social and political capital and the sense of trust upon which they depend can only be built by dialogue and exchange. The once derided notions of citizenship and community are beginning to be reasserted, and the concept of nationality, as opposed to the more ephemeral notion of national identity, should also take its place in the lexicon of cohesion. Our nationality, together with membership of our local “state,” must provide a basis for political discourse, and often the only means by which we can contribute to an international and wider debate.

Segregation and separateness

However, the historic pattern of settlement means that the possibilities for such interaction are limited. The development of “multiculturalism” since the Second World War has reinforced, rather than broken down, the many forms of segregation and separation. One of the most surprising statistics is that in 1961, London contained 47 percent of the black and minority ethnic population and the West Midlands conurbation 14 percent, and some 40 years later the figures are almost exactly the same. A small proportion of the black and minority ethnic population has moved into predominantly white areas over the years, but the areas with a high concentration of minorities have generally been reinforced by new migrants and have also suffered from “white flight,” with the same pattern remaining. The expected integration has simply not happened.

The fact is that, while Britain describes itself as a multicultural society, most people do not live in multicultural communities. Even though most of the ethnic minority populations live in London and a few other regional capitals, the white population dominates most of the rest of the country, with areas such as the north-east, Wales and the south-west being almost exclusively white. And in areas that are more mixed, the separation is often just as evident, with most towns and cities divided on a neighborhood basis. “White flight” means that cities are losing some of

their white population to suburban and rural areas and, meanwhile, the black and minority ethnic community is growing because of inward migration and natural factors. The different populations are then becoming more concentrated — and more divided.

The term “segregation” is often used to describe this separation, but it is not wholly appropriate, as it would suggest that divisions have been imposed by law. Clearly, there is no such regime in force, but to call it “self-segregation,” in which some people prefer to live in an area dominated by their own ethnic or faith group, is also not adequate. Locational choices are often constrained by socioeconomic factors, the lack of appropriate social and cultural facilities, the availability of suitable schools, and, most of all, by real concerns about the lack of safety and security in other areas. Given that the areas “preferred” by minority groups generally contain the poorest housing and have the worst overall environment, it is hard to believe that they are the consequence of a free choice.

Many of these “segregated” communities are so dominated by particular groups that the possibility of contact with the majority population or another minority group is very limited. These “parallel lives” do not meet at any point, with little or no opportunity to explore the differences and build mutual respect, let alone to see them as enriching our communities. Meanwhile, racists can easily spread myths and false rumors and use the ignorance about each community to demonize minorities. That is not to say that we should attempt to go in the opposite direction toward some form of total integration or “assimilation.” Some degree of “clustering” for each group is essential, if we are serious about preserving cultural identity. A critical mass of each community will also be necessary to support different places of worship, shops, and social facilities.

The “layers of separation” need to be examined in each case, but in general, we should expect to see a greater sense of commonality — or integration — at the political and economic level, while maintaining and promoting a separation at the cultural level to allow diversity to flourish.

There are real practical difficulties to overcome too, in particular, for the many white children growing up in all-white parts of the country who have no experience of the multicultural society of which they are a part. Many do not meet people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds until they go to university — and they are still a minority of their peers. Community cohesion has to be directed at them too, and it will require some imagination to realize, for example, the way in which Wigan, a largely white area, has teamed up its young people with youngsters in multicultural Leicester.

Vision – A shared sense of belonging

Sharing experiences is not sufficient — and will not develop — unless there is also a shared vision and sense of purpose. The way in which different cultures are supported often means that difference is reinforced, rather than based upon commonalities. As societies become more diverse, there is an increasing need for common values and a greater sense of national solidarity. This is difficult given that our notion of diversity has moved on significantly from just a handful of principal minorities to embrace a much larger number of communities — over 300 languages are now spoken in London schools.

The nature and pattern of difference is also on a new level with a wider range of people from eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and every corner of the globe creating new “domains of difference,” both between the host community and the new migrants and among minorities. Indeed, we have created a culture in which each different group feels that it is being unfairly treated in relation to the other and believes that it is in competition for jobs, housing, and public services. Moreover, each group feels that its identity is at risk and under pressure.

There is a danger that we just focus on ethnicity or faith — or even just one, the Muslim faith, which has been the center of attention. However, this is a much more complex problem, and we have to address the

fear of difference more generally. This means investing in education programs, breaking down the barriers between groups, and building bridges between communities at the institutional level and in neighborhoods and wherever people meet. This is very much about helping people to come to terms with diversity and seeing it as an enrichment of their community, rather than as a threat.

This means that we should not dismiss negative perceptions too lightly as “racist” or prejudiced and that we should try to understand the causes and also deal with the real competition over resources and ensure that conflicts are addressed in an evenhanded and transparent way.

This also means a much more difficult debate about “commonalities,” rather than simply focusing on difference. We have promoted difference in so many respects: encouraging separate schools for different faiths, housing provision for minorities, a wide range of separate cultural, arts, and sports programs, regeneration schemes based on different communities, separate employment training schemes, etc.

These have all been done for laudable reasons, but they generally failed to promote the things that all communities have in common. As a defensive mechanism against racism and discrimination, the focus on difference may have been justified, but we now have to redress the balance, challenge areas of difference that conflict with wider societal interests, and more vigorously promote a common language and active citizenship, rather than relying upon “peaceful co-existence.”

The equalities agenda still has to be reinforced, not simply to ensure fairness and social justice, but also as a means of promoting interaction, understanding, and respect. In this sense, racial equality and community cohesion programs come together and are mutually reinforcing. However, we need a more positive approach to breaking down segregation and “parallel lives,” not only in interaction in our daily lives but also as part of a political entity with a common interest in the direction and development of the state.

Multiculturalism and the European Union

Imam Abduljalil Sajid

Chairman, Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony, United Kingdom

As a chairman of the European Union Task Force for Intercultural Dialogue, I have been working very closely with the 27 countries of the European Union during the past three to four years. I can confirm that the European Union has achieved three major things in the past:

First and foremost, it has become an economic union among different nations who in the past century were archenemies, fighting each other tooth and nail. But in past 60 years or so, the European Union has shown that where there are differences, a solution can be found among fighting parties who are motivated to do so.

Apart from an economic union, they rose above their political differences and brought together various parties on a political level around a vision for the future. A new paradigm or new direction — that is where our world, society, and Europe are going. They applied the principles of cooperation, partnership, and working together. This has not been completely achieved in terms of cementing one united state, but there has been progress in that direction. I'm sure in our lifetime that will be achieved, and a foundation has been laid for it.

Third and most importantly is a moral dimension, to which I and people like you and many others are contributing. People, God's creation, have a potential to create something in this world. The missing dimension in our daily life — politically or economically — is the moral dimension.

Interfaith has become a popular word. Twenty years ago nobody was talking about it, but it has become a catchphrase of this decade. Since this

is the Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Europe, promoting morality and interfaith work — the spiritual dimension — will strengthen our economic and political dimensions.

It is good to see different faith communities coming together to communicate and learn from each other, building cooperation and partnership on many levels. But I dislike the weakness of the word "tolerance." We need to accept and recognize each other as we are. Diversity among human beings is God-given, not our creation. Different colors, different languages, different cultures, different nations, different tribes, different countries exist as a fact of life. God commands us to recognize, appreciate, and value this diversity and work to resolve these differences amicably, humanely, without violence, and without any force. That is what is required of this movement towards interfaith cooperation.

The prerequisite is that we must move from engaging in wishful thinking about peaceful coexistence to working together for commonality. The differences will not vanish in a day. Let's not deal with our differences, but let us devote our energy as a positive force toward building the world that we want to see.

Working as one human race, as one family under the guidance of one God, will lead us to the future that we all long for.

Let's try not only to tolerate each other but also to accept each other. The Global Peace Festival brings millions of people from diverse cultures and backgrounds together because we all are one human race. We all are one family, and we need to respect each other's diversity in the vision of God Almighty, which is that we resolve our difficulties and differences amicably. The festival brings hope and joy to the people who come together so that they can appreciate, value, and learn from each other, and start working together for the common good.

I'm the father of five beautiful children and three grandchildren. The Festival brings my family hope and joy; it also motivates us to work to-

gether for lasting peace internally in our hearts and externally in our neighborhoods to bring cohesive and everlasting peace.

Youth is the future, and the Global Peace Festival concentrates on the future generation. The Global Peace Festival is motivating young people to serve others. If we can motivate young people to care for others and serve others above themselves, selflessly, then something can be achieved in our lifetime.

GPF London Keynote Address

London ExCel Center

November 22, 2008

Honored guests from around the world, ladies and gentlemen.

Welcome to the Global Peace Festival in Europe, celebrated here today in beautiful London, England! It is a privilege to be here at this exciting time when we all have new hope for peace.

Over the past two to three weeks, the eyes of the world have been focused on the results and aftermath of the presidential elections in the United States, hoping to witness the beginning of a new era and new policies that can bring about peace and prosperity for all people.

“Change, yes we can” has become the slogan of not only a successful campaign but also a message of hope at a time of national and global crisis.

Of course, change for the sake of change is not enough. The goal and direction of that change is far more important. The Global Peace Festival is providing a new direction and opportunities for a growing international grassroots peace movement.

The need for a new vision

To articulate a meaningful vision for peace, we have to be bold and break new ground if we are to go beyond the failures of the past.

We only need to look back at the last century to recognize the futility of trying to tackle the world’s problems through the same old military, economic, political and diplomatic solutions.

Of course, in Europe, much progress has indeed been made. War between Western European nations is today unthinkable.

The abolition of most national border controls, the establishment of European courts and other institutions, and the creation of a single currency are important developments.

However, many are concerned that this movement toward unity is being accomplished at an unacceptable price, and that the cultural and spiritual traditions that have defined Europe for hundreds of years are being ignored or trampled in the name of progress.

Without a spiritual foundation there cannot be real peace, universal human rights, or lasting union. That is why I believe that the vision of ‘One Family Under God’ is so important for this age. Each member of the family of nations has a unique contribution to make for peace.

This ideal and vision goes all the way back to the very beginning of human history. Just as we have big aspirations and hopes for our children, God also great expectations for the human family.

God wanted His children to create a family of true love, life and lineage. Yet, this dream is unfulfilled and God has waits in sorrow for someone to realize His dream.

My father, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, has devoted his entire life to the fulfillment that ideal. To my father, the dream of building “One Family under God” is not just the dream of one man, one woman or one family but the dream of all humanity and, most of all, the dream of God.

The True Family Model for Peace

Why is the family the cornerstone of peace? First and foremost, the family is universal. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality and religion we are all members of families.

Secondly, the family represents the most intimate of human relationships. We use familial terms to describe the closeness of any relationship saying, “that person is like my father, like my mother, my brother, my sister, my son and like my daughter.”

Therefore, the family should be the school of love where we learn to love all humanity in its richness and diversity. Marriage and family are the fundamental building blocks of any society, but Britain, like the United States and much of Europe is in danger of losing her most valuable institutions and traditions.

Divorce and family breakdown are at an all time high. The terms “husband” and “wife” have been replaced by the non-committal “partner.” Meanwhile, sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise, even among the youngest teenagers.

An increasing number of youth are joining gangs in search of the love and support they cannot find at home.

Gang violence is the inevitable result, with the rise of violent attacks on young people— especially knife crimes – being reported even in the international media.

The social and economic cost of the breakdown of the family is staggering. Young people who cannot find love in the family do badly at school, are most susceptible to drugs, and the most likely to enter destructive relationships.

The answers to all these problems do not lie in hiring more social workers, training more police or building more prisons. We must make it our priority to support and invest in each and every family. We will create One Family Under God, one family at a time.

A New Interfaith Effort for Peace

Another challenge facing this country is to integrate Britain’s many religious and cultural traditions.

It is encouraging that so many religions and faiths have found a home here on this island. Yet frequent tensions remain. The threat of terrorism is in the back of all our minds, and all faith communities are facing the same difficult challenges with their youth.

Just last week at the United Nations, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, President George Bush and other international leaders met to discuss the urgency of a new interfaith effort to create peace.

The task of promoting interfaith understanding is an urgent priority for our world and an important goal of the Global Peace Festival.

The Universal Peace Federation is helping Christians, Muslims and Jews in the Middle East to rediscover their common heritage in Abraham.

Peaceful relations between faith traditions are not only about tolerating one another's prayers and rituals. A true interfaith experience is a celebration of the core principles that bind all people together as one family. We must learn from each other's faith, not just about each other's faith.

Before we call ourselves Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu or Jew, or see ourselves as black, white, or Asian, or identify ourselves as British, European or American, we are all the sons and daughters of God and members of his eternal family.

Britain and the Culture of Service

One of the best ways to move towards interfaith harmony is by working together in service for a common good. Building a culture of service is another core goal of the Global Peace Festival and a vital step for peace.

There is something deeply spiritual in serving others. It is not something we should do for only a day, a month or even a year. It has to become a way of life. When living for the sake of others becomes a habit, we come to see the true value God places on all human beings.

We are promoting a spirit of volunteerism and peaceful cooperation around the world. Communities and nations can be transformed through practicing the vision and the habit of living for the sake of others.

I'd like to see Britain, and indeed all European nations build on these efforts and expand this grassroots movement to spread a culture of service.

Taking this one step further, I'd like to see Europe's community and volunteer partners joining with those of the United States and other countries to establish a Global Peace Corps.

Imagine young people from enemy nations working side by side in service. Any initial misunderstandings and suspicions would fade away as they sweat, cry and laugh together with a common purpose and cause.

Call to Action

As we celebrate the Global Peace Festival in London, we must renew the culture and traditions of Europe and expand her dreams of peace onto a global stage through the universal vision of "One Family under God."

This should be the clarion call of our age! As my father said in a recent Peace Message, the time has come:

"to tear down the man-made walls of race, culture, religion and country, and establish the peaceful, ideal world of God's cherished desire."

The power of one human family united can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world. It can end the strife and poverty of Africa, the conflict in the Middle East, and the final remnant of the Cold War on the Korean Peninsula.

As citizens of Europe and the world, let us make a solemn pledge to dream the greatest dream of all, to lead the world to peace at last through the vision of “One Family under God.”

Then, as surely as light overcomes the darkness, an era of peace and prosperity will emerge from the depths of distrust and hatred, in Britain, in Europe and in the far corners of our world.

Together, we can dare to dream the greatest dream of all! Let us own the dream to create “One Family under God.”

May God bless you and your family, and may God bless this great nation of Great Britain and all of Europe! Thank you very much!.

BRASILIA, BRAZIL
December 5-8, 2008

A Spirit-Filled Day in Brasilia

With more than 20,000 noisy Brazilians of all ages filling the Nelson Nilson stadium with noise and enthusiasm, Bishop Manoel Ferreira, the tireless chairman and promoter of the Global Peace Festival (GPF) held in Brasilia last weekend could perhaps at last afford himself a quiet smile of satisfaction.



“This is a very important time for Brazil,” he told reporters. “We are one of the fastest growing nations in the world, and it is time for us to show the world what we can do.” Although Brazil has its full share of social and economic problems, the most urgent problems facing its 180 million people are not primarily material or economic, but moral and spiritual, Ferreira said.

Ferreira, who not only serves as a Federal Deputy in the Brazilian Congress but is also life President of the nine-million member Assemblies of God fellowship in Brazil, might be one of the busiest men in

Latin America. But in the past five months the task of preparing the Global Peace Festival in Brazil has been one of his main preoccupations, with several hundred volunteers coordinating a vast array of programs across the nation.



GPF Brazil Chair Bishop Manoel Ferreira introduces the Deputy Governor of Brasilia, Hon. Paulo Octavio.



Entry of the Peace Dancers, drawn from the youth of area high schools



Faces in the crowd at the Global Peace Festival in Brasilia mirror happiness, reflection and commitment.



Pastor Laurindo of Amisrael preparing to deliver a ceremonial performance on the shofar.

“Governments can’t solve these problems alone,” Ferreira said. “We have to empower our nation’s youth and heal our families. We need to restore our traditional values.” In fact, Brazil has been a leader in faith-based programs with churches tackling problems as substance abuse, alcoholism, family breakdown and abuse with notable success.



Double Platinum Brazilian popular singer Frank Aguiar tries his hat on Bishop Ferreira for size.



Please say after me, "One Family Under God!"
Uma Família Sob Deus!

The representatives of fifty nations, all 26 of Brazil's states and hundreds of churches, mosques, synagogues, schools and communities were treated to a festive gala that included traditional Indian dances, a horse parade, and performances by many of Brazil's top entertainers, including crossover multi-platinum singer and artist Frank Aguiar.

A Session in the Brazilian Congress

On December 5th, the GPF convened a special invitational program in the National Congress to consider ways in which faith and community leaders could help bring fresh perspectives to the nation's political leaders. Intrigued by the rare opportunity to participate directly, representatives from the diplomatic missions based in the Brazilian capital, NGOs and other community swelled the attendance to more than four hundred.



Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, international president of the Global Peace Festival, explained that the GPF had three main objectives: interfaith cooperation; strengthening the family and creating a culture of service.

He urged the assembled deputies and guests to urgently consider the creation of a “Global Peace Corps” that would give young Brazilians an opportunity to serve the region and the world.



“Imagine young people from enemy nations and from different faiths working side by side in service,” he said, “Any initial misunderstandings and suspicions would fade away as they sweat, cry and laugh together with a common purpose and cause. Serving others can be one of the fastest ways to a world of peace.”



GPF Brazil's Manoel Ferreira with Dr. Hyun Jin Moon

Service Marking the UN Day of Volunteers

Earlier in the day, the idea became a local reality when one hundred fifty trees were planted and band shelters and playgrounds painted in GPF's recognition of the *United Nations Day of Volunteering* in the nearby city of Gama. The young people who came out to volunteer were delighted to find themselves joined by an enthusiastic group of elderly people more than ready to help with the planting and to dispense gardening and other advice!

“This program has been very well supported by our community,” said Donizete Andrade, Mayor of Gama. “Together with our police and fire departments, community health agents and schools, it’s good to see federal agencies represented here to help.” Several NGOs in attendance were coordinated by Mr. John Breyer, director of the Brazilian Chapter of the (IRFF). The event was covered by many local TV stations and the newspaper, *Tribuna do Brasil*.



Drawn Together in God's Love

Bishop Manoel Ferreira

President, Assemblies of God, Brazil; Member of Congress, Brazil

The vision of One Family under God is, I believe, the most important point for all churches in our days. We are living in a moment when there is a big devaluation of the family, or at least an intention to devalue the family.

It is a time of uneasiness and excessive violence in many parts of Brazil. I think that peace and the status of the family are very important points for these days, because not only Brazil but also the world are facing a crisis in the area of family. A message that can bring trust and express the value of the family is the message that we need today.

I think that this work of cooperation, harmony, and integration is for all segments of society — religious and nonreligious, evangelical Christian, Christian Catholics, non-evangelical Christians, and other segments that believe in the family. The family is where trust is built. The human being was created to live in a family. The disintegration of the family and the devaluation of this segment of society signify total defeat. Working in this direction will bring peace, harmony, and calm.

This is the message that we want to bring, not only through the word of God, through the Gospel, but through the experiences that this great institution of the Universal Peace Federation has in spreading this message and this work.

This is the rain that will fall into this dry soil, which is so much in need of God's direction and the word of God that brings comfort and trust. Through peace we will achieve these goals.

I think that God has raised up Dr. Hyun Jin Moon at this time to bring this message that addresses so many difficulties and problems. Especially in Brazil, where we are passing through times of insecurity, this great Global Peace Festival will bring an answer that many people desire.

The truth is that we put limits on ourselves and we haven't had communion among the religious segments of the world. There are divisions between the Orient and the Occident. There are many creeds, divisions, and religions on this side of the world as well. This Global Peace Festival will break these barriers. The purpose is to break these barriers, break this ice, and bring us close together, united under the guidance of God around one objective, which is the family.

I see this moment as an answer to our prayers, because we are all praying for more unity in the search for a greater purpose, which is peace. God made us. There is only one God, who is the God of us all, and I believe this proposal to unite will benefit all of us.

I see the Global Peace Festival as an instrument of integration among the nations of North and South America. Our nations will benefit if we become closer and more woven together. We all will win because, as we seek to love and unite more fully, drawn together in the bonds of God's love, peace will automatically spread. Peace is where harmony is. If we take advantage of this moment, it will be a very special time for all nations and for all peoples, a great response from God to all our lives.

This call for peacebuilding is an age-old dream brought by a person who has a vision and an answer from God for this moment. I think Dr. Moon experiences a deep communion with God and much closeness with God. He is striving to manifest God's will. Furthermore, his father, whom I met many years ago, has been a great proponent of unity and communion, and now we are seeing the instruments that can bring this dream to fulfillment. I see that the time of God for this to happen is now.

Today we are living in a very good moment in Brazil, when things are beginning to balance out, but there are still huge deficiencies. The distance between rich and poor is very big. Especially in Brazil, service projects have extraordinary relevance. There are enormous social inequalities in Brazil.

I think this proposal will bring enlightenment and help us find solutions for these problems. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, where there is social justice is missing, where there is social inequality, discrimination, and divisions, there can hardly be peace. Therefore, this proposal to unite in the search for peace will decrease this distance and enable God's love to spread in the hearts of the people.

Many Global Peace Festivals are being organized. We are doing things on a large scale in Brazil. We count on your presence to carry out this great work, which will bring a new vision of integration among the religious and nonreligious people.

Brazilian leaders from all segments of society need to unite in brotherhood so we can show people who we are and what we are able to do. When we unite for the sake of peace, we will truly have one large family of God, under His guidance.

GPF Brazil Keynote Address

Nelson Nilson Stadium

December 7th, 2008

Bishop Ferreira, Reverend Robert Schuller, and honored guests and dignitaries from Brazil and around the world, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Global Peace Festival in beautiful Brasilia, Brazil!

Before I begin, I want to take a moment to thank my dear friend, Bishop Manoel Ferreira, for his tireless efforts to make this Festival in Brasilia a reality.

I know that many others have prayed and worked hard to prepare for this day, and I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of you. Thank you, and may God continue to bless your efforts for global peace!

Recently the eyes of the world have been on the great changes taking place in the United States. With Barack Obama's ascendancy to the highest office of the world's only remaining superpower, people around the world are waiting in anticipation, hoping to witness the beginning of a new era of peace, prosperity and cooperation.

"Change, yes we can" has become the slogan of not only a successful campaign but also a message of hope at a time of national and global crisis. Although hope is absolutely necessary at times of uncertainty, change for the sake of change is not enough. The goal and direction of that change is far more important.

As we gather here in Brasilia, the capital of this great nation of Brazil, I want to share with you a vision of change that is sweeping across our globe and especially throughout this hemisphere of the Americas.

It is a spiritual vision rooted in time-enduring principles, values and aspirations, and it is inspiring a great peace movement throughout the world. That unifying vision is “One Family under God!”

We have already held Global Peace Festivals in more than twenty countries around the world, and many more are planned for 2009. I believe that the universal appeal of the vision of “One Family under God” testifies to the providential time in which we live.

This July, the Global Peace Festival held in Paraguay helped the first peaceful, democratic transfer of power between civilian governments in that South American nation and planted the dream of creating a larger Latin American Union under the vision of “One Family under God.”

In Kenya, Prime Minister Raila Odinga acknowledged that the principles he had learned by attending our peace education seminars had helped him and other parliamentarians make the necessary steps to end the tribal violence plaguing so many nations of Africa, especially following last year’s presidential elections.

The President of Mongolia, a former Communist, recognized that the vision of creating “One Family Under God” will be an important step in establishing the spiritual and moral life of his nation and uniting his people in the wake of post-election violence.

At the Global Peace Festival in Malaysia, a predominately Muslim nation, the Honorable Mahathir Mohammed, Prime Minister for 22 years, warned that religious leaders, especially within his own faith of Islam, must not politicize religion for their own purposes. He said they must go back to the original teachings of the founders of their traditions, who all sought to create the “brotherhood of man.”

In the Republic of Korea, religious conflict has recently emerged as yet another obstacle to reunification. The Global Peace Festival challenged religious and political leaders at the National Assembly to go beyond their narrow sectarian thinking and unite under the universal plat-

form of “One Family under God,” so that a united Korea will hold to values and principles based upon the sovereignty of God.

The Global Peace Festival has also emphasized the important mission of the entire American hemisphere.

In Washington DC and four other US cities, we articulated the need to expand the original American Dream of creating “One Nation under God” to a more universal dream of creating “One Family under God,” going beyond race, nationality and creed.

More than thirty thousand religious leaders from all faith traditions gathered to celebrate and commit to this vision and create a new global, inter-faith peace initiative.

The need for a new vision for the Hemisphere of the Americas

Today, here in Brasilia, the capital of the largest nation in Latin America, we are being called to make history. We must see ourselves as God sees us, a people anointed and appointed by God with a mission that extends throughout all the Americas.

Although all the nations of this hemisphere have their unique histories, the common link we all share is our Christian heritage. I believe it is fair to say that God has a special providential plan for this continent and the Christian spirit it has nurtured.

Unlike the sectarian practices of European Christianity, the people who came to the Americas – both North and South – have always aspired to a more universal vision of Christianity, a vision that can lead the entire world back to God.

At the Global Peace Festival in Washington DC, I explained that the United States was created and raised by God to fulfill a biblical promise, first made in the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

That promise was to build a 'New Israel' where all of God's children, from every race, nation and religion could come and worship Him in accordance to their conscience.

In the same way, God is hoping that Brazil, and all the nations of South America will play a leading role in taking the vision of "One Family Under God" beyond the Americas and throughout the world.

The Dream of God

Just as we have big aspirations and hopes for our children, so too did God have great expectations for humanity. God wanted his children to establish a true family which could be the school of true love, true life and true lineage. It would have been God's family, where he could dwell as the eternal true parent of all mankind.

Tragically, humanity's first ancestors Adam and Eve fell away from this ideal, and this dream was not realized. Nevertheless, God has not abandoned mankind. He has worked patiently throughout human history, waiting in agony and lamentation for someone to realize His unfilled dream.

Two thousand years ago, the young son of a carpenter changed the world in which he lived. Jesus was born into the lineage of Israel, the chosen people maintained a sacred covenant with God at a time when most ancient civilizations believed in a pantheon of gods. As a result, they felt that they alone had a special place in God's providence.

Breaking with the established traditions of his own people, Jesus referred to God as his Father and all humanity as his brothers and sisters. He gave a message of true selfless love, and the promise of universal salvation in creating the one family of God.

Jesus earnestly hoped that the nation of Israel and the people of his faith could unite with him and help him fulfill the providential mission: to create One Family Under God.

Jesus came to pour new wine into new wineskins. But the vessels prepared by God for the new wine abandoned him and his mission. Tragically, instead of being glorified, Jesus was not accepted and he had to go the way of the cross. Yet the message and the vision that he championed 2,000 years ago planted the seeds for global Christianity and opened the door to the modern era.

The culmination of Jesus' universal mission took root here in the Americas, giving rise to a Christian hemisphere true to the creed that has transformed the world. I believe that the birth of the United States of America was an event which defined the universal spirit of Christianity and thus became an important milestone in the providence of God.

The Declaration of Independence represented a new covenant that recognized God's sovereignty as the basis of "inalienable rights." Thus it set the stage for our modern understanding of human rights and the ideals of religious freedom. In essence, the American dream was never just a political or an economic dream. It is the dream of building "One Nation under God."

Now, the time has come to take that vision beyond the confines of 'one nation Under God,' and expand it to the Christian hemisphere of the Americas and fulfill the original mission of Jesus to create "One Family under God."

The one who has taken on the mantle to realize that dream in our modern era is none other than my father, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon. After receiving a revelation on a cold Easter Sunday seventy three years ago, he has devoted his entire life, resources and wealth to the fulfillment of that dream.

My father always believed that God has in the past and is currently working through all religions. However, he has always emphasized that Christianity, moved by the Holy Spirit has a central role to play in realizing the dream of "One Family Under God."

To my father, this dream is not just the dream of just one man, one woman, one family or one religion, but the dream of all humanity and, most of all, the dream of God.

The True Family Model for Peace

Why “One Family” under God? The family is the cornerstone of peace. First, it is universal. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality and religion we are all members of families.

Secondly, the family represents the most intimate of human relationships. We use familial terms to describe the closeness of any relationship saying, “that person is like my father, like my mother, my brother, my sister, my son and like my daughter.” Therefore, the family should be the school of love where we learn to love all humanity in its richness and diversity.

Marriage and family are the fundamental building blocks of any society, but Brazil, like the United States and all other nations is in danger of losing this most valuable tradition. Divorce and family breakdown are at an all time high. Every nation faces major challenges with its youth. The social and economic cost of the breakdown of the family is staggering.

The healing of the family is a spiritual task. We must make it our priority to bring God back into every family. When God is dwelling in our families, all our other problems will fade away. We will create One Family Under God, one family at a time!

A New Interfaith Effort for Peace

Another urgent challenge facing Brazil is to integrate her many religious and cultural traditions. Peace among faith traditions are not about only tolerating one another's prayers and rituals.

A true interfaith experience is a celebration of the core principles that bind all people together as one family. The task of promoting true inter-

faith understanding is an urgent priority for our world and an important goal of the Global Peace Festivals.

In the Middle East, for example, the Universal Peace Federation is helping Christians, Muslims and Jews to rediscover their common heritage in Abraham.

Before we call ourselves Christian or Muslim, Catholic or Pentecostal, Buddhist or Hindu; before we see ourselves as black, white, or yellow, or identify ourselves as Brazilian, or American, we are all the sons and daughters of God and members of his eternal family.

Brazil and the Culture of Service

Building a culture of service is another core goal of the Global Peace Festival and a vital step for peace. There is something deeply spiritual in serving others. It is not something we should do for only a day, a month or even a year. It has to become a way of life.

When living for the sake of others becomes a habit, we come to see the true value God places on all human beings. We are promoting a spirit of volunteerism and peaceful cooperation around the world. Communities and nations are being transformed through living for the sake of others.

I'd like to see Brazil, and all South American nations build on these efforts and create a grassroots movement that will spread a worldwide culture of service.

Taking this one step further, I'd like to see Brazil's volunteer partners joining with those of the United States, Latin America and other nations to establish a Global Peace Corps.

Imagine young people from enemy nations and from different faiths working side by side in service. Any initial misunderstandings and suspicions would fade away as they sweat, cry and laugh together with a common purpose and cause.

Call to Action

As we celebrate the Global Peace Festival here in Brasilia, we must initiate a new “Great Awakening” of the entire hemisphere, rooted in the true universal spirit of Christianity engendered by Jesus 2000 years ago. Only by doing this can we realize and fulfill Jesus’ true providential mission of creating “One Family under God.”

The dream of “One Family Under God” will be the clarion call of our age! As my father said in a recent Peace Message, the time has come:

“to tear down the man-made walls of race, culture, religion and country, and establish the peaceful, ideal world of God’s cherished desire.”

The power of one human family united with the Will of God can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world. It can end the strife and poverty of Africa, the conflict in the Middle East, and the final remnant of the Cold War on the Korean Peninsula.

As citizens of Brazil, the Americas and the world, let us make a solemn pledge to lead the world to peace through the vision of “One Family under God.”

This is a time when God is pouring out His Holy Spirit upon the world. With God’s grace, as surely as light overcomes the darkness, an era of peace and prosperity will emerge from the depths of distrust and hatred. Together, let us dare to dream the greatest dream of all! Let us own the dream to create “One Family under God.”

May God bless you and your family, and may God bless this great nation of Brazil! Thank you very much!

MANILA, PHILIPPINES
December 11-13, 2008

Global Leaders Endorse "One Big Family Under God" in Manila

Manila, Philippines - Religious and political leaders from various nations shared the limelight on December 13 in front of thousands of people at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila in a show of unity and breaking of cultural barriers to become "one family under God" during the Global Peace Festival.



*A huge crowd fills Rizal Park in Metro Manila for the Global Peace Festival
December 13, 2008*

GPF co-chairman Dr. Hyun Jin Moon announced to festival delegates the holding of the first ever World Convention of the Global Peace Festival in Manila by the end of 2009. "London, Washington, Tokyo and Seoul were all strong candidates. But in the end, I am pleased to announce to you this evening that this GPF World Convention will be held right here in Manila," he said to the cheering crowd.

"It can end the strife and poverty of Africa, the conflict in the Middle East, and the final remnant of the Cold War on the Korean Peninsula. The power of one human family united with the Will of God can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world," he explained.

According to Moon, the peace festival in Manila which opened last December 11 should serve as a "great awakening" for the people worldwide to stand up and be united in eradicating strife and poverty worldwide. "The dream of 'One Family under God' will be clarion call of our age. The time has come to tear down the man-made walls of race, culture, religion and country, and establish the peaceful, ideal world of God's cherished desire," he said.



Interfaith Leaders Pray for Peace

"As we celebrate the Global Peace Festival here in Manila, we must initiate a worldwide 'Great Awakening' rooted in the true universal spirit of Christianity taught by Jesus 2000 years ago," Moon added. Moon likewise called on the citizenry to make a solemn pledge in leading the world to peace through the vision of "One Family under God."



Dr. Primitivo Chua, President of GPF Philippines, lights a candle to begin the closing ceremony



Political leaders took a break from politics to join the global peace celebration. Former Speaker of the House Jose De Venecia Jr., former Senate President Manuel Villar and Senator Miguel Zubiri shared the same stage as they joined religious leaders in the symbolic lighting of Peace Candles. At least 81 governors, 18 congressmen, six senators and 30 mayors were cited by organizers in their efforts to promote peace.



Service Projects, like this one for children in the San Andres Village, are an important part of all GPFs

In his welcoming remarks, Villar reminded the public that peace should start from one's self before it resonates to others as he likened the world and the people as a spaceship in the universe and its passengers. "We share a noble dream of creating a world at peace where love resonates all over, where we focus more on the many things that unite us rather than on our differences, where harmony prevails over discord and where everyone becomes his brother's keeper," he said.

"To build a peaceful world, we must start laying the foundation of peace in ourselves," Villar added.

As to the Philippines being chosen for the GPF world convention, Robert Kittel, a GPF Public Relations director, said the country is the leading global peace advocate in the world and a perfect example of a nation with diverse cultures and religions that can live peacefully in one place. "Take a look at the people in Mindanao. I think that's the best way to explain how people, no matter what their race is, can live harmoniously," he said.



During the start of the festival, spectators were entertained by marching bands and street dancers donned in colorful costumes. Flags of different countries were paraded by Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) members.



Participants in the Mr. / Miss University Pageant, a popular highlight of the Manila GPF

Despite efforts to promote peace through becoming a single, unified family, Moon warned that attaining peace might be hampered should the basic fundamentals of family be eroded.

"Divorce and family breakdown are at an all time high. Every nation faces major challenges with its youth. The social and economic cost of the breakdown of the family is staggering," he lamented.

"The healing of the family is a spiritual task. We must make it our priority to bring God back into every family. When God is the center of our families, all our other problems will fade away," Moon added.

The Philippines Peace Process

Hon. Nabil Tan

Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Philippines

We are pleased that the Universal Peace Federation initiated this kind of conference that aims to raise public awareness of the need to promote innovative leadership and governance that are responsive to the pressing and complex concerns of our time.

Your organization has gone to great lengths this year in organizing conferences and assemblies in certain localities in the Philippines to intensify people's awareness of the promotion of peace. We take note of the leaders' conferences that were held in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Antipolo, Rizal, and Baguio City in order to promote the value of partnerships among governments, faith-based organizations, and NGOs, fostering the culture of love and service as a way toward peace and development.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, which is the lead agency tasked to work for a just and lasting peace for all Filipinos, considers these efforts positive because they help drum up people's awareness of building a climate conducive to peace. The holding of a leaders' conference like this contributes to the government's efforts to build peace and make it a reality.

In the last 20 years, various administrations have sought to address the issues of internal armed conflict by issuing policies that provide for an environment to build a culture of peace. In February 2001, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo reaffirmed the government's resolve to pursue the multi-track peace process after the all-out war in Mindanao in 2000. The

government's comprehensive peace process is being pursued through the so-called "Six Paths to Peace." These are:

- First, pursuit of social, economic, and political reforms;
- Second, consensus-building and empowerment for peace;
- Third, peaceful negotiated settlement with the different rebel groups;
- Fourth, programs for reconciliation, reintegration into mainstream society, and rehabilitation;
- Fifth, addressing concerns arising from continuing armed hostilities;
- Sixth, building and nurturing a climate conducive to peace.

This commitment is also translated as Agenda No. 9 in the President's Ten-Point Legacy Agenda which, in turn, is fleshed out into a National Peace Plan comprising Chapter 14 of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (2004–10). The Peace Plan articulates the following five goals of the peace process:

- Completion of comprehensive peace agreements with rebel groups, resulting in the permanent cessation of armed hostilities by 2010;
- Completion of implementation of all final peace agreements signed since 1986;
- Mainstreaming the rebel groups through an enhanced amnesty, reintegration, and reconciliation program;
- Rehabilitation, development, and healing of conflict-affected areas;
- Strengthening the peace constituency and citizen participation in the peace process on the ground.

The goals as well as components of the peace process are closely intertwined; not one goal or component stands alone. Similar to the symbiotic relationship of peace and development, the efforts undertaken by the administration are geared towards attaining peace and mitigating poverty — addressing the roots of the internal armed conflicts of the country.

As we all know, there can never be sustainable development without peace and stability, and neither can there be genuine peace unless the roots of the internal, armed conflict — injustice, poor governance, and lack of social services — are adequately addressed. Thus, the need to build a constituency for peace is a must. To attain peace, the cooperation and involvement of all stakeholders must be harnessed and strengthened.

In becoming peacebuilders, there is a need to shift perspective, traversing the terrain of consensus-building and priming the ground for tolerance and understanding. All of us must participate in this noble effort. From whatever origin, calling, or social station, we are all peacemakers. We bear the responsibility to practice and promote the values of peace — respect for human dignity, justice, equity, freedom, social responsibility, tolerance, and solidarity. These are the values that make a peaceful and vibrant community. The transformation, after all, begins with the education, enculturation, and internalization of the attitudes and beliefs that give us lasting peace of mind and spirit.

On this note, I reiterate the importance of this leadership training, your commitment and capacity to meet the common challenges we face, and your resolve to stand by the dream of peace, not only in our country but among all mankind.

Peace, the Great Need of Our Time

Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr.

Speaker, House of Representatives, Philippines, 2001–07

Brothers and sisters in peace: I wish you joy at this Peace Festival in our beloved city of Cagayan de Oro, Philippines, and may the peace you sow raise a harvest of righteousness!

I come here today to join you — our brother Filipinos — in our agonizing search for peace in Mindanao. No goal is greater or is more desirable or important in our generation. For there can be no alternative to peace. This fratricidal war in Mindanao — brother Filipinos killing each other, has already exacted heavy costs, and our nation cannot afford to lose any more in blood and treasure. But this peace cannot be won through the force of arms; nor can it be imposed through violence or the subjugation of our ethnic and religious minority.

In Mindanao, war is not and cannot be an option.

War, we know only too well, can only produce tragic consequences. The costs of the war policy that the professional politicians have pursued are tragic and staggering.

From 1969, when the fighting between Muslim separatists and the armed forces began under the Marcos Administration, to 1996, the year the Ramos Government signed a peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front, the Mindanao-Sulu violence cost 120,000 lives.

An average of 18 people were killed every day in this island, and 20 percent of the fatalities were civilians. In that same period the Armed Forces spent about P73 billion pesos, or an average of 40 percent of its

annual budget, in relation to the conflict. And still, the Mindanao war dragged on.

But if war is not an option, neither is peace that does violence to the Philippine Constitution just to avoid a renewal of the conflict. This peace you and I seek we must win in the most peaceable way — through honest negotiations by both sides, grounded in the belief that what is best for the nation is best for its people, regardless of religion and culture.

My brothers and sisters in peace: It is this peace that in my public life I have labored to help create. I join you today to help change the face of Mindanao, to help transform its heart, to banish hate and discrimination, and to bring about an era of peace and solidarity between Christians and Muslims and Lumads (indigenous people of the southern Philippines).

My generation has been trapped in a cycle of setbacks and progress in Mindanao. Peace has been hard to attain. But war and its brutalities are much harder to bear. We pass on this hard lesson to the young. And as I gaze out across this vast throng, I see many youthful faces and I'm reassured. The youths are here for a purpose. I must tell you: you are here because the Filipino nation needs heroes for peace.

You are here because you love your country and people, and you are now ready to take the lead in the search for peace. You know that peace is not a choice. It is the imperative of your generation. This is a time for audacious action. And the road to take is not to dismember the republic, nor to create a separate Muslim enclave within the Philippine state.

The key to peace is with you and not with the professional politicians. For the mistakes these politicians made were paid for with blood in the forgotten battlefields of Mindanao. Today the youth must seize the initiative to revive the peace process and to move for an immediate resumption of peace negotiations. And this initial step we must make meaningful and significant by supporting it with two major initiatives:

- An interfaith dialogue that enlists the participation of civil society, the *ulamas* (Muslim scholars), and the leaders of our youth to build good will and bridges of understanding between religions and cultures;
- A massive economic rebuilding of Mindanao. I propose to call this the P100-billion "Mini-Marshall Plan."

Ambitious as it may seem, it is attainable. But first we must take a collective stand and move toward it, for this is the best way. Mindanao can be lifted from grinding poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and social injustice and reverse decades of official neglect. Poverty breeds insurgency and extremism. A military solution was implemented to root out extremism but not its immediate cause. But we can attack poverty in Mindanao one way — through a powerful economic action plan to transform the face of Mindanao and reverse decades of official neglect.

This plan must be made to work where it counts most: to build more irrigation systems, hospitals, markets and *balal*-based meat processing plants; to modernize Mindanao's agriculture and fisheries; to promote its tourism industry; to expand Mindanao's universities all over Mindanao; and to propel small entrepreneurship by creating Grameen-type microfinance cooperatives.

This plan will require decisive action by the Philippine Congress, and it should involve the mobilization of funds from the World Bank, Japan, China, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, and the European Union.

I am no longer a young man. But I believe in the dreams of the Filipino youth. I share in their fierce idealism about what they can do for this country. I am confident that this is a dream we can achieve for Mindanao — through a combination of economic mobilization, civic and economic action, the resumption of the peace process, and a ceasefire with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Such a powerful affirmative action program has succeeded for Muslims elsewhere — in Malaysia, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo.

As in those countries, Mindanao's economic resurgence and prosperity can become the final solution to the Muslim insurgency. This has been a driving force in my public life. And I shall devote the remaining years I have to do what is necessary to help end the gridlock in our government, to help bring about the integration of our Christian and Muslim societies, and to prevent any more bloodshed — that tragic waste of our young in battlefields of war not of their own making. This is what you and I can do together.

Understanding between the great civilizations

My brothers and sisters in peace: In Mindanao and elsewhere in our global community, nothing can be truer than the maxim that there can be no peace among the nations without peace among the religions. And there can be no peace among the religions without dialogue among the religions.

The interfaith dialogues which we had the privilege to present in 2003 to the United Nations General Assembly as a Philippine Resolution have been unanimously approved by the UN. In September 2006, the Philippines and the UN organized under our initiative the first Interfaith Summit of 13 nations at the UN in New York, attended by Presidents and Prime Ministers. Now the Universal Peace Federation and His Majesty, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques of Saudi Arabia, separately, but of the same mind, have been holding successful interfaith dialogues in various parts of the world.

Understanding among the great civilizations has become the only basis for global peace that will endure. From these interfaith dialogues we should expect no miracles — except those that result from open hearts along with the willingness to see the other side's viewpoint and minimize differences. But beneath these differences, we are one human family under God.

And the peace we fight for in Mindanao is a peace for all God's children — for we are one human family in Mindanao, one in the Philippines, one in Asia, and one human family in the world living under the canopy of heaven.

In sum, peace in our time is a community of sharing that we must seek in collaboration. And the peace we seek is not just the armed peace between wars but the peace of “every man living under his vine and his fig tree.”

Events like the Peace Festival now being held in this beloved city are an inspiring manifestation that indeed we are God's children belonging to “one human family under God.” May the Holy Spirit come upon our midst and manifest His power — so that in everything we do, we shall have victory!

GPF Manila Keynote Address

Rizal Park and Quirino Grandstand

December 13th, 2008

Distinguished guests from around the world, dear friends, family, ladies and gentlemen: Welcome to the Global Peace Festival in beautiful Manila, Philippines!

It is a privilege and an honor to be back here in Manila, exactly one year and one day after the Global Peace Festival 2007 began a whirlwind year of GPF successes all over the world. We have come full circle, both figuratively and literally, as we meet once again at the Quirino Grandstand to celebrate the culminating event of the Global Peace Festival series in 2008.

Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to thank my dear friend, Jose de Venecia Jr. for his great efforts throughout the world as an international Ambassador for the Global Peace Festival.

I'd like to thank Chairman Emilio Yap of the *Manila Bulletin*; Undersecretary Josephine Dominguez from the Office of the President; and Bishop Pedro Maglaya of the Interreligious Federation for World Peace for their tireless efforts to make this Festival in Manila a success.

I'd also like to acknowledge the Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, the Philippine Information Agency; the Armed Forces and the Police and all the many other institutions that have given the Global Peace Festival their generous support.

I know that thousands of other volunteers have prayed and worked hard to prepare for this day, and I want thank all of you. May God continue to bless your efforts for peace!

Recently the eyes of the world have been on the great changes taking place in the United States. With Barack Obama's ascendency to the highest office of the world's only remaining superpower, people around the world are anticipating the beginning of a new era of peace, prosperity and cooperation.

"Change, yes we can" has become the slogan of not only a successful campaign but also a message of hope at a time of national and global crisis.

Although hope is absolutely necessary at times of uncertainty, change for the sake of change is never enough. The goal and direction of that change is far more important.

As we gather here in Manila, the capital of this great nation of the Philippines, I want to share with you a vision of change that is sweeping across our globe, especially throughout Asia and the Pan-Pacific Rim.

It is a spiritual vision rooted in time-enduring principles, values and aspirations, and it is inspiring a great peace movement throughout the world. That unifying vision is "One Family under God!"

We have already held Global Peace Festivals in more than twenty countries around the world, and many more are planned for 2009. As a man of faith, I believe that the universal appeal of the vision to create "One Family under God" testifies to the providential age in which we live. I am happy to report that with God's grace we have surpassed all of our expectations.

To recognize just some of our accomplishments, the Global Peace Festival held in Paraguay helped the first peaceful, democratic transfer of power between civilian governments in that South American nation, and planted the dream of creating a larger Latin American Union under the vision of "One Family under God."

In Kenya, Prime Minister Raila Odinga acknowledged that the principles he had learned by attending our peace conferences helped him and other parliamentarians make the necessary step to end the tribal violence plaguing his nation, especially after last year's contested presidential elections.

The President of Mongolia, the leader of the People's Revolutionary Party, told me that the vision of creating "One Family under God" was essential in establishing the spiritual and moral life of his nation and uniting his people in the wake of post-election violence.

At the Global Peace Festival in Malaysia, a predominately Muslim nation, the Honorable Mahathir Mohammed, Prime Minister for 22 years, warned that religious leaders, especially within his own faith of Islam, must not politicize religion for their own purposes. Instead, they should go back to the original teachings of their traditions, which advocated peace and the need to create the "brotherhood of man."

In the Republic of Korea, where religious conflict has recently emerged as yet another obstacle, the Global Peace Festival challenged religious and political leaders to go beyond their narrow sectarian thinking and unite under the universal platform of "One Family under God" so that a united Korea will hold to God-centered values and principles, thus safeguarding religious freedoms and human rights upon reunification.

The Global Peace Festival has also emphasized the important mission of the entire American hemisphere, especially in light of the Pan-Pacific Rim era.

In Washington DC and four other US cities, we articulated the need to expand the original American Dream of creating "One Nation under God" to a more universal dream of creating "One Family under God," beyond race, nationality and creed.

At each festival, religious leaders numbering in the tens of thousands from all faith traditions gathered to celebrate and commit to this vision to create a new global, inter-faith peace initiative.

Just six days ago in Brasilia, the capital of the largest nation in Latin America, the Global Peace Festival challenged Christian leaders in both North and South America to initiate a hemispheric ‘Great Awakening’ rooted in the universal vision of “One Family under God.”

The key sponsor of this festival was the Assemblies of God, the largest Pentecostal fellowship in the world, in conjunction with other major denominations and faith traditions committed to the true universal spirit of the Christian message.

The Dream of God

Ladies and gentlemen, just as we have big aspirations and hopes for our children, so too did God have great expectations for humanity. God wanted his children to establish a true family which could be the school of true love, true life and true lineage. It would have been God’s family, where he could dwell as the eternal true parent of all mankind.

Tragically, humanity’s first ancestors Adam and Eve fell away from this ideal, and this dream was not realized. Nevertheless, God has not abandoned mankind.

He has worked patiently throughout human history, waiting in agony and lamentation for someone to realize His unfilled dream.

Two thousand years ago, the young son of a carpenter changed the world in which he lived. Jesus was born into the lineage of Israel.

As a Jew, he was born into an exclusive religious and cultural tradition which maintained a sacred covenant with God at a time when most ancient civilizations believed in a pantheon of gods. As a result, they felt that they alone had a special place in God’s providence.

Breaking with the established traditions of his own people, Jesus referred to God as his Father and all humanity as his brothers and sisters. He gave a message of a true, selfless love, spiritual accountability and the promise of universal salvation, beyond the chosen people to the entire human family.

Jesus earnestly hoped that the nation of Israel and the leaders of Judaism could unite with him and help him fulfill God's dream to create One Family under God.

Jesus came to pour new wine into what he hoped would be new wineskins. But the vessels prepared by God to receive the new wine abandoned him and his mission. Yet the message and the vision that he championed 2,000 years ago planted the seeds for global Christianity and opened the door to the modern era, as this Christian spirit crossed the Atlantic and found its way to the American hemisphere.

Christianity and the modern Era

I believe that the birth of the United States of America was an event which defined the universal spirit of Jesus' message and set the tone of Christianity in the Americas. Thus, it became an important milestone in the providence of God.

The *Declaration of Independence* represented a new covenant with God that recognized His sovereignty as the basis of "inalienable rights," setting the stage for our modern understanding of human rights and the ideals of religious freedom.

Built upon the principles and values of establishing a state under the sovereignty of God, the American dream was never just a political or an economic dream. It was the dream of building "One Nation under God."

Now, the time has come to take that dream beyond the confines of "One Nation under God" to the more universal vision of "One Family under God," transcending nationality and creed. In this way we can ful-

fill the original mission of Jesus to create the family of God and usher in an age of everlasting peace and prosperity.

The one who has taken on the mantle to realize that dream in our modern era is none other than my father, the Reverend Dr. Sun Myung Moon. After receiving a revelation on a cold Easter Sunday seventy three years ago, he devoted his entire life and resources to the fulfillment of that dream.

My father has always believed that God inspired the formation all religions and has worked through them to lead humanity towards the fulfillment of that dream.

As a result, all faiths invoke universal principles, values and aspirations that transcend their particular religious and cultural traditions, having the possibility to come together on common ground.

The vision to create “One Family under God” is not the dream of just one man, one woman, one family or one religion, but the dream of all humanity and, most of all, the dream of God.

The Asia Pacific Era.

Ladies and gentlemen, in order to be real peacemakers, we must see ourselves as God sees us, a people anointed and appointed by God with a mission that extends throughout this nation of the Philippines, Asia and the entire Pacific Rim

Although all of Asia is deeply spiritual, there are only two nations that share a Christian heritage. Those two nations are Korea and the Philippines. Like Christianity in the Americas, Korea, to the north, is predominantly Protestant and the Philippines, to the south, is mostly Catholic.

I believe it is fair to say that God has a special providential plan for these two nations and the Christian spirit they have nurtured, especially during this era of the Pan-Pacific Rim.

Imagine if the rising powers of Asia to the west and the American hemisphere to the east could unite upon the Pacific Rim rooted in Jesus' universal spirit and mission to create "One Family under God." Korea and the Philippines, representing the north and the south could be leading nations in ushering an age of everlasting peace.

Both Korea and the Philippines have historically had very close relationships with the United States. Having a common spiritual heritage, all three nations, I believe, have an important role to play in leading the entire world back to God's dream for humanity.

At the Global Peace Festival in Washington DC, I explained that the United States was created and raised by God to fulfill a biblical promise, first made in the book of Isaiah. That promise was to build a Second Israel where all of God's children, from every race, nation and religion could come and worship Him in accordance to their conscience.

In the same way, God is hoping that the island nation of the Philippines and the peninsula nation of Korea can unite together and play a leading role in taking the vision of "One Family under God" throughout Asia and the world.

The True Family Model for Peace

Why "One Family" under God? The family is the cornerstone of peace. First, it is universal. Regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality and religion we are all members of families.

Secondly, the family represents the most intimate of human relationships. We use familial terms to describe the closeness of any relationship saying, "that person is like my father, like my mother, my brother, my sister, my son and like my daughter." Therefore, the family should be the school of love where we learn to love all humanity in its richness and diversity.

Marriage and family are the fundamental building blocks of any society, but the Philippines, like the United States and all other nations is in danger of losing this most valuable tradition. Divorce and family breakdown are at an all time high. Every nation faces major challenges with its youth. The social and economic cost of the breakdown of the family is staggering.

The healing of the family is a spiritual task. We must make it our priority to bring God back into every family. When God is the center of our families, all our other problems will fade away. Let us create “One Family under God,” one family at a time!

A New Interfaith Effort for Peace

Another urgent challenge facing the Philippines is to integrate her many religious and cultural traditions. You know firsthand that religious conflict is an ever present threat to the stability and security of this nation, the region and the world.

Peace among faith traditions cannot come about through mere dialogue or through “tolerating” one another's prayers and rituals. A true interfaith experience is a celebration of the core principles, values, and aspirations that bind all people together as one family.

The task of promoting true interfaith understanding is an urgent priority for our world and an important goal of the Global Peace Festivals. Before we call ourselves Christian or Muslim, Catholic or Pentecostal, Buddhist or Hindu; and before we see ourselves as black, white, or yellow, or identify ourselves as American, Korean, or Filipino, we are all the sons and daughters of God and members of his eternal family.

The Culture of Service

Building a culture of service is another core goal of the Global Peace Festival and a vital step for peace. There is something deeply spiritual in serving others. It is not something we should do for only a

day, a month or even a year. It has to become a way of life. When “living for the sake of others” becomes a habit, we come to see the true value God places on all human beings.

We are promoting a spirit of volunteerism and peaceful cooperation around the world. Communities and nations are being transformed through our efforts to build a culture of service rooted in the peace philosophy of “living for the sake of others.”

I’d like to see the Philippines, and all Asian nations build on these efforts and create a grassroots movement that will spread into a global culture of serving others. Taking this one step further, I’d like to see the Philippines’ volunteer partners joining with those of the United States, Japan, Korea and other nations to establish a Global Peace Corps.

Imagine young people from enemy nations and from different faiths working side by side in service! Any initial misunderstandings and suspicions would fade away as they sweat, cry and laugh together with a common purpose and cause.

Call to Action

As we celebrate the Global Peace Festival here in Manila, we must initiate a worldwide “Great Awakening,” rooted in the true universal spirit of all religions.

The dream of “One Family under God” will be the clarion call of our age! As my father said in a recent Peace Message, the time has come: *“to tear down the man-made walls of race, culture, religion and country, and establish the peaceful, ideal world of God’s cherished desire.”*

The power of one human family united with the Will of God can quell the turmoil of conflict throughout the world. It can end the strife and poverty of Africa, the conflict in the Middle East, and the final remnant of the Cold War on the Korean Peninsula.

As citizens of the Philippines, the Americas and the world, let us make a solemn pledge, under the steadfast gaze of our ancestors, to lead the world to peace through the vision of “One Family under God.”

The Global Peace Convention

With this in mind, I would like to share with you some exciting news. Next year we will hold the first ever World Convention of the Global Peace Festival. We will gather representatives from every city and nation where the GPF was held in 2008 and 2009 for a week of celebration, networking, conferences and planning.

Of course, there has been keen interest from around the world from many cities that want to host this exciting and prestigious convention. London, Washington, Tokyo and Seoul were all strong candidates. But in the end, I am pleased to announce to you this evening that this Global Peace Festival World Convention will be held right here in Manila !

This is a time when God is pouring out His Holy Spirit upon the world. With God’s grace, as surely as light overcomes the darkness, an era of peace and prosperity will emerge from the depths of distrust and hatred.

Together, let us dare to dream the greatest dream of all! Let us own the dream to create “One Family under God.” May God bless you and your family, and may God bless this great nation of the Philippines! Thank you very much!

HAIFA, ISRAEL
December 18-20, 2008

Global Peace Festival Celebrates the Holiday of Holidays in Haifa

Haifa, Israel - On December 20, 2008, the Global Peace Festival was celebrated in Haifa, Israel, as part of that city's annual December celebrations. The diverse crowd was composed of Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Druze from Haifa and all around the country.

Though it was in mid-winter, a perfect day welcomed families and individuals to the picturesque Wadi Nisnas where multiple festival activities took place. The crowds began to fill up the streets as early as 10:00 in the morning. Walking through the narrow streets, one saw numerous stalls offering colorful tables filled with a large variety of products to attract the crowds.

Our Global Peace Festival program was conducted as a joint venture with Haifa's municipal company, Ethos, that produces the yearly Hag Hachagim event, the holiday of holidays. This is a month-long series of events every December honoring and respecting the four Abrahamic faiths.

The program began at 10:30 am and lasted until 4:00 pm, with more than 24 groups and individuals (200 artists in total) performing on two stages simultaneously. There were rock bands and choirs, martial arts demonstrations and dance groups, vocal singers and ethnic musicians, and much more. Altogether, police estimated that some 40,000 people participated in the day-long events in midtown Haifa.

Everybody seemed to be having great fun. Massoud, one of the neighborhood residents, said, "We haven't seen such a celebration in years." On one stage surrounded by historic buildings, a special Native

American ceremony took place led by Dr. Shuki Ben Ami, who was the events' master of ceremonies.

Twelve people were invited to the stage and paired with representatives of enemy nationalities, religions, or races. Each pair was then handed an authentic arrow and asked to break the arrow signaling the end of hostilities. To the sound of a Native American slowly beating her drum and singing a haunting melody, each pair broke their arrows and raised the pieces high above their heads before placing them in the urn at the center of the stage and embracing each other. When all had finished, the master of ceremonies set fire to the broken arrows as the music continued. The crowd cheered and Yona Yahav, the Mayor of Haifa, who participated in the activity, embraced several of the pairs.

Mayor Yahav welcomed everybody and invited the international participants to return in the coming years, and then jokingly said he would tax them after the fourth year! The celebration continued with more performances. The audience filled every available space, including the road overlooking the area as well as balconies of nearby buildings.

After the mayor spoke, Dr. Thomas Walsh, Secretary General of the Universal Peace Federation, led the Middle East Peace Initiative representatives of more than 13 nations onto the stage. He gave an address on behalf of the GPF Chair Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, highlighting the role of the family as "the school of love," the place where we develop the skills of healthy relationships within society at large. The crowd actively participated, raising their hands in agreement to the motto proclaiming; "One family under God."

A dazzling array of performances continued, and even though dusk was approaching the crowds refused to leave the festival. All stood together as the final song, "Seeds of Love," was performed by Naty Rosenfield with the whole crowd joining in.

All performances were offered voluntarily, and we had more willing performers than time allowed. The disappointed artists who were not able to perform were comforted with assurances of invitations for a future program.

Prior to the main festival, several events and projects took place. We held an exciting service project in a Druze village on Mount Carmel in which the local Boy Scouts along with GPF volunteer instructors transformed an old school wall into a beautiful mural. In Haifa, another group of young leaders from the Reali School joined Youth Federation for World Peace volunteers in a painting project at an old peoples' home. The elderly residents were so moved that they didn't let the young people leave without inviting them to share a meal together.

In the Beit Hagefen Theater a special awards ceremony was conducted on December 18, and 43 NGO leaders received a GPF special service award for excellence in community service and preservation of the environment. Haifa's City Councilor Dr. Moshe Becker commented that for him it was the greatest pleasure to be among people who make their life goal to serve others. Dr. Eliezer Glaubach, the master of ceremonies, read out loud each NGO's mission statement while Dr. Walsh, together with Dr. Sang Jin Lee, the Regional Chair of UPF-Middle East, and Dr. Masatoshi Abe, chair of UPF-Israel, handed out the awards.

Also on December 18 two conferences were held in parallel at the Dan Panorama Hotel overlooking the beautiful Haifa Bay. The International Youth Leadership Conference gathered some 30 participants, Israelis and Palestinians among other nationalities. Mr. Omar Halasa and Mr. Alex Gabb chaired the dynamic forum exploring the theme, "Youth Leaders Spearheading the Culture of Peace." The second session was devoted to "The Role of Service in Promoting Peace" and was chaired by the International Chair of Service for Peace, Dr. Charles Phillips.

In the neighboring hall some 80 religious leaders were gathered representing Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Druze among other faiths.

The participants were greeted by Sheik Ali Birani, the President of the Interreligious Federation for World Peace chapter in Israel as well as by Dr. Shuki Ben Ami the well-known writer and theologian. Ms. Nurit Hirschfeld, the program organizer, guided two sessions. The first, chaired by Dr. Frank Kaufmann, dealt with the vision of “One Family under God,” and the second session, led by Mr. Taj Hamad, explored the meaning of “True Leadership.” Round-table discussions followed each presentation, and summaries of their deliberations were offered to the entire plenum. Swami Parameshananda commented “When we look at each others' religion we see differences; when we look up to God we realize that we are all His children.”

A week-long program took place under the banner of the Middle East Peace Initiative on the theme of “Religious Leaders Forging a Path for Peace.” Throughout the week, the international delegates visited religious and historical sites in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and the Sea of Galilee; in addition, they participated in dialogs, orientation sessions, and symposiums. Two important symposiums were held: one in Palestine and one in Israel. In Ramallah, the delegation met with Sheik Taysir Tamimi, head of the Sharia courts, as well as two government ministers and six parliamentarians. In Jerusalem, the delegation was hosted in the Knesset by Hon. Ran Cohen MK as well as by the deputy speaker of the house, Hon. Yitzhak Ziv. The intense fact-finding tours led up to the enjoyable main events of the Global Peace Festival. Tour leader Mr. Jeremy Jordan commented; “it is amazing that in such a short time a group of total strangers from different nations and religions can become such a close family!”

The entire set of programs was organized by a small group of volunteers and especially by a group of youngsters between the ages of 15 and 23 without much prior experience. However, their great enthusiasm and high spirits enabled the entire festival to become a huge success! The fact that such young people took ownership of the festival is the living proof

that the message of Dr. Hyun Jin Moon of “living for the sake of others” has become an integral part of their lives.