



North America

IIFWP

Newsletter

Our Opportunity to Live for the Sake of Others

By Dr. Chang Shik Yang and Antonio Betancourt

Dear Ambassadors for Peace, since the last issue, published in early December 2002, our nation has reached a turning point in its history. On the very brink of armed confrontation, the forces of good are called upon to exercise the God-given responsibility to confront and neutralize the forces of evil.

In this complex world in which ideals seem to clash with realities, we can cling to values taught by the saints in history: to live for the sake of others and to love one's enemy. This doesn't mean to surrender to evil or serve the interests of evil, but to find a way to uphold these principles in the face of powers that seek to destroy us.

President Bush recently said, "We have glimpsed what a new culture of responsibility could look like. We want a nation that serves goals larger than ourselves. We've been offered an opportunity; we must not let this moment pass."

At a recent conference on the Middle East [see page 11], Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, chairman of IIFWP international, spoke deeply on this theme: "Father Moon always teaches the way of true love and to live for the sake of others. By loving each



Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Sun Myung Moon.

other, we restore the failures and suffering of the past. There is no other way. The way to restore relationships requires that we go the way of loving our enemy. If we are to solve the problems we are facing around the world, we must practice this fundamental principle of loving our enemy. To do this we must face the challenge of overcoming our own difficult and painful feelings toward those we feel have behaved unjustly or wrongly."

The Ambassadors for Peace program endorses a revolution of heart, first at the individual level, then expanding to the family, the community, the nation, and ultimately to the world. Only then will true peace be achieved. Dear friends, never in the history of our nation has the mission of the IIFWP-NA in pursuit of world peace and friendship been more important.

"I have already appointed tens of thousands of Ambassadors for Peace," said Father Moon at the Middle East conference. "All around the world, they carry the banner of the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace that I founded.... Leaders assembled here become active participants in

recreating your families and nations in true love and in bringing about an everlasting world of peace where there are no national boundaries."

To that end, since our last newsletter, the IIFWP has convened several very important international conferences to educate the world's leadership.

■ December 9-14: 150 Ambassadors for Peace from Korea, Japan, and the United States met in Kona, Hawaii, to understand "Father Moon's Vision for the Unified Nation of Cosmic Peace," the role of Ambassadors for Peace in carrying out that vision. [See page 3.]

■ December 26-29: IIFWP hosted another important program in Washington, DC, on "God and World Peace: An Exploration of the Significance of God for a World in Crisis." The co-sponsors for the event were the United Press International Foundation and the Washington Times Foundation. [See page 10.]

■ Feb. 4-7: IIFWP co-hosted the World Summit on Leadership and Governance in Seoul, Korea, on "Developing the Culture, Structures, and Policies of Peace for a World in Crisis." Guests included three Nobel laureates. [See page 10.]

■ Feb. 24-25, IIFWP supported the 20th World Media Conference, which met in Washington, DC, on the theme, "Mission of the Media and World Peace: Responsibilities in a Time of Crisis." [See page 5.]

■ Feb. 27-March 2, IIFWP hosted the Middle East conference on "Beyond Co-Existence Toward a New Culture of Peace: Focus on Peace in the Middle East." [See page 11.]

Ambassadors for Peace, now is the time to step forward. You have the education, the training, the tools, and most importantly, ✉

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This quarterly newsletter is published by North America IIFWP, a chapter of the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP), which is a global organization headquartered in Tarrytown, New York. Our chapter seeks to promote a global culture of peace through dialogue and cooperation among secular and religious leaders of all nationalities, faiths and ethnic backgrounds that make up the USA and Canada. North America IIFWP Newsletter provides updates on national and international events and activities, brief articles; and papers, as well as news about IIFWP and our sister organizations, issues, and events related to the achievement of a culture of peace.

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Rev. Kwak Addresses World Summit in Seoul



Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak,
Chairman, IIFWP

Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, IIFWP chairman, delivered the keynote address at the "World Summit on Leadership and Governance: Exploring the Culture, Structures, and Policies of Peace for a World in Crisis," held February 4, 2003, in Seoul, Korea. An excerpt follows.

We all can see clearly the interconnectedness of our world. The local and the global are inextricably linked. What happens near the DMZ and 38th parallel in Korea affects the United Nations, the U.S., China, Russia, Japan, the Europeans. and the world. The same holds true for the Middle East.

These two areas of conflict and tension are unique in that they encapsulate two major aspects of the global crisis. The Korean peninsula is a flashpoint that has roots in the Cold War era, characterized by ideological struggle between totalitarian states and democratic capitalist states. The division of the Korean peninsula symbolizes the split and tension between competing ideologies, cultures, and political economies. The Korean peninsula, furthermore, represents the tragic division and conflict between people of the same race, blood, and history. In this respect, if we can solve the situation in Korea, we can solve many other world problems.

The Middle East has some similarities and yet great differences, as compared with Korea's situation. The Middle East situation largely preceded the Cold War era and has its roots in ancient history, one related to the complex history of the emergence of, and relationships between, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The problems, here, as in Korea are representative of a broader global problem wherein the quest for land, sovereignty, and justice are interlinked with issues of national or ethnic identity and religious worldviews....

The IIFWP is dedicated to finding solutions to our world's problems. The principles of reconciliation and unification are among the fundamental ideals we espouse. But, how does reconciliation occur? I want to suggest that it is the result of true leadership.

True leadership is characterized by an individual who is concerned about the well-being of the entire family of humanity. Like a parent who cares about the harmony and well-being of his children, a true leader has a vision of universal peace that extends beyond short-term results and self-interests. Most importantly, the true leader is willing to sacrifice himself for the greater good.

This is why, when he founded the IIFWP, Dr. Sun Myung Moon clarified the core principle as that of "living for the sake of others." This phrase captures the foundation and basis for all reconciliation. We can reconcile entities that are divided by a process of give and take action that begins with giving of oneself. This is the basis of all creativity. The entire universe has been created by God according to this principle. When we examine the natural order, we see evidence of this principle everywhere. Each level of being exists not only for itself, but for the sake of the higher order of being. From the atoms to the galaxies, all things seek not only their own existence, but a higher purpose....

If leaders begin to practice the principle of living for the sake of others, we can transform this world. As our institutions of governance, the governments of nations, and the core institutions of society begin to be guided by such a principle, then we can begin to have hope for a new era of peace.

The second core principle of the IIFWP calls for overcoming barriers that divide peoples. Too often, as individuals come to understand themselves and others, according to particular religious, racial, national, political, and ideological identities, these become barriers to wider unity and harmony. Once again, the kind of leadership needed in this era is characterized by the courage and will to go beyond such boundaries in order to embrace a high purpose. ✱

Ambassadors for Peace Conference

Kona, Hawaii, December 12, 2002

By William Selig, Deputy Secretary General, IIFWP-NA

IIFWP and FFWPU co-sponsored a special three-nation conference on "Rev. Moon's Vision for the Unified Nation of Cosmic Peace: The Role of Ambassadors for Peace in Korea, Japan, and the USA," on the Kona Coast of the Big Island of Hawaii, December 9-14, 2002.

Fifty participants from the United States and the same number from Korea and Japan were invited for a total of 150. Ambassadors for Peace from all sectors of society – political, religious, social, and business – were invited. Rev. Dr. Chung Hwang Kwak served as chairman, with Dr. Chang Shik Yang as conference host and Antonio Betancourt and Jim Flynn as co-directors.

The purpose of the event was to provide an opportunity to understand the Founder's ideology based on the Divine Principle, to dis-

cuss a foundation for the establishment of Cheon Il Guk, to conduct a brotherhood and sisterhood ceremony for the three providential countries of Korea, Japan, and the U.S., and to tour and sightsee Hawaii.

The first morning, after the welcome banquet, the Founders arrived at 5 a.m. Amazingly, the room was filled. Rev. Moon gave internal guidance for about 90 minutes. The participants loved it. After breakfast, everyone was organized to form trinities and we had the Brotherhood-Sisterhood Ceremonies. There were many touching moments when the Ambassadors for Peace received their certificates and had their photos taken. In the evening, the Founders hosted a Hawaiian style banquet in a beautiful garden next to the ocean. Rev. Moon spoke for about

30 minutes and gave everyone souvenir gifts of coffee and t-shirts.

Thursday morning Rev. and Mrs. Moon came to Hoon Dok Hae and spoke for about 90 minutes. Participants then had a chance to have our photos taken with Rev. and Mrs. Moon, first as trinities, then as a group.

Special presentations, included: "Father Sun Myung Moon in America," by Dr. Yang; "Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Vision and Contributions to World Peace" and "The Significance of Marriage, Family, and Blessing," by Rev. Kwak; "Father Sun Myung Moon in Japan," by Rev. Jeong Ok Yu and Rev. Hideo Oyamada; Service for Peace by Tom Phillips; and a report on IIFWP religious activities by Dr. Frank Kaufmann. ❖

World Peace Blessing and Marriage Rededication Ceremony

Washington, DC, December 7, 2002

Excerpted from an article by Rev. Michael Jenkins, President, IIFWP-USA

Another incredible victory for all mankind was accomplished on December 7, 2002, when more than 1,200 couples filled the Marriott Crystal Gateway in Virginia and participated in the Interreligious and International World Peace Blessing and Marriage Rededication Ceremony.

The hall was overflowing with couples. Dr. Chang Shik Yang gave a welcome address along with Congressman Matt Salmon of Arizona. The nationally famous pastor and friend of many presidents, the Rev. Dr. E.V. Hill, gave an inspiring address. He said that God has blessed the movement of Rev. Moon and it is focused on Jesus and the family. He

gave a heartfelt testimony concerning marriage and family life. He and his wife were delighted with the Blessing ceremonies. Dr. Hill said, "God meant for me to be with you. All races and religions are here. I am meant to be with you and know you and become your bother."

Then a deeply moving reconciliation ceremony was held. First, representatives of Islam (Imam Elahi), Christianity (Bishop Floyd Nelson), and Judaism (Rabbi David Ben Ami) as the sons of Abraham joined together and embraced and then signed the resolution that they would end the strife of history by blessing all families beyond the boundaries of race, religion, and culture.

Sen. Larry Pressler and Rev. Chris Hempowicz embraced, representing the free world and the communist world respectively. Rev. Jesse Edwards and Bishop C. Phillip Johnson embraced as white and black brothers. Then a very special moment came when American Indians led by Guyokla came and reconciled their sad history in America. Many wept as they could feel that the power of true love is now resolving all the strife that

has plagued human history.

The formal blessing ceremony began with Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak's address, which explained the deep meaning of the blessing as an eternal marriage before heaven and earth. World-level religious leaders offered prayers of blessing for the couples: Imam Elahi for Islam, Bishop Floyd Nelson for Christianity, Rabbi Ben Ami for Judaism. Representatives of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and the American Indians all offered special prayers.

Then the attendants entered in a glorious procession and the Concelebrant Blessed Clergy led the procession of religious leaders, who were joined by Rabbi Ben Ami and Imam Elahi. Then to the Halleluiahs Chorus, the Co-Officiators, Rev. and Mrs. Moon, entered in procession. All were standing in applause as the atmosphere of the room became richer with joy and happiness.

Rev. and Mrs. Moon administered the Holy Water ceremony directly to eight representative couples whom they had introduced to each other. Some of these were from former enemy nations, such as Japan and America. ❖



Rabbi David Ben Ami gives blessing of peace.

Spotlight on an Ambassador for Peace

By Dave Randle, Director, Utah Peace Institute

Ms. Ljubica "Buba" Roth, director of the Utah Peace Institute, came to the U.S. from the former Yugoslavia. The Utah Peace Institute mission statement reads: "Peace is the art of being in harmony with yourself, your family, your community, and the entire world."

During the past year, she has participated in the Olympic Peace Pole, a project to create 168 custom-made peace poles for all of the participating nations of the Salt Lake 2002 Winter Olympic Games. "May Peace Prevail on Earth" is printed alongside the nation's flag and the U.N. flag with a description of the Olympic Truce.

During the Olympic Peace Pole project, Ms. Roth arranged for refugee youth from about 20 countries to participate with the mayor of Salt Lake City in a ceremony dedicating the Olympic Peace Poles at City Hall and took part in the two Olympic Peace Pole interfaith services. The refugee youth program has offered leadership for peace in the community. For example, Ms. Roth gave presentations at the American Association of Pastoral Counselors Collective Grief work-

shop and helped organize a national youth crime prevention program for her refugee youth group. The group's major goal is to support peace in our neighborhoods and ultimately in the world by teaching crime prevention and forgiveness.

The refugees come from 13 different countries and speak diverse languages such as Swahili, Dinka, Zulu, Serbian-Croatian-Bosnian, Arabic, German, Farsi, Vietnamese, French, Spanish, and Russian. Despite their different languages, they all speak the same language of the need for peace in our world and are sharing that message in many forums.

Currently these refugee youth are leading workshops around the state for such groups as Amnesty International, universities, interfaith gatherings, and local government programs. There are plans this spring to present their program at the United Nations, and PBS is working on a documentary that will feature Ms. Roth and the work that the refugee youth are doing.

Ms. Roth also helped create and facilitate the Ambassadors for Peace for "First Night"



Ms. Ljubica "Buba" Roth, Ambassador for Peace.

in downtown Salt Lake City where about 300 people pledged to be peace ambassadors in their neighborhood. (First Night is the first day of the New Year. It is a program offered in many cities throughout the country as a way families can celebrate the new year without alcohol.) The program was supported with a Proclamation by Utah Gov. Mike Levitt and letters of support from the Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff and local Congressman Jim Matheson.

Ms. Roth is a great addition to the Ambassadors for Peace program. ❄

3-Day American Clergy Leadership Seminar

Los Angeles, CA, December 9-11, 2002

By Billie Ann Sabo, West Block Coordinator, ACLC

The National Level Clergy Workshop in Los Angeles began on Monday, December 9, at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel at LAX. Thanks to the hard work of the West Block and some additional states, we had a total of 139 participants and staff. In addition, around 20 Los Angeles members supported this workshop each day.

The National HQ speakers were Rev. Michael Jenkins, Rev. Levy Daugherty, Rev. Phillip Schanker, Rev. Kevin McCarthy, and Archbishop George Augustus Stallings. Also Dr. Chang Shik Yang arrived from Kona, Hawaii, late Tuesday night to give the final lecture on Wednesday on Rev. Moon's life course and the coming of the Second Advent. Also attending this workshop from Washington, DC, were Rev. C. Phillip Johnson and Rev. Torrey Barrett. Rev. Johnson's son, Rev. William Jarvis Johnson, who lives in Los Angeles, decided to join this workshop after he and his wife received



Clergy join hands in Los Angeles.

the holy wine blessing at Pasadena House with some simple DP education.

This was a great workshop from the very beginning. The meetings were at full capacity for each lecture. We had worried that our Los Angeles ministers might leave at night time and not return, but they found the lectures so inspiring, they stayed put at the hotel and didn't leave! One long-time friend, Rev. Dr. Joseph "Papa" Lee, was so "on fire" that

he called some other pastors to come join.

We closed out the workshop on Wednesday with lunch, and the room was still packed. The only difficulty, and it was a happy one, was that there was so much material and not enough time. Information was given to the pastors faster than they could understand it! But they were stimulated! Some signed up to study Divine Principle more deeply starting in January.

In Los Angeles, we held an ACLC Christmas Dinner. Eighty percent of the pastors who attended the December workshop came with their wives. I have never seen such a high spirit or heard such amazing testimonies to True Parents and our church. After dinner, we chose seven pastors to give testimonies. Some cried while they spoke because they realized through the workshop that the Second Advent has happened. It was a truly amazing night. ❄

World Journalists Conference

February 20-22, 2003, Washington, DC

By Vicki Phelps, Publications Director, World Media Association

The 20th World Media Conference, held February 20-22, 2003, in Arlington, Virginia, focused on the media's responsibilities in the face of multiple crises and challenges to peace. Three panels discussed "The Crisis in the Family and the Role of Journalism," "The Media on International Security and Weapons of Mass Destruction," and "Media Perceptions of the Role of Religion in Society."

More than 200 journalists from England, France, Germany, Italy, Korea, Japan, and the United States participated in the conference. Thirty-four of the participants were chairmen or presidents of media organizations, seven were publishers, and nearly 140 were editors, general managers, and other journalists.

At the opening banquet, a contrasting tone between the threat of war and the possibility of peace was set by keynote speakers Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, president of UPI.

According to Cordesman, the current challenges in Iraq and North Korea are "only the tip of the iceberg." He concluded, "The world is not a safe place.... We have been seeking to stop the advance of new threats and weapons ever since the... Middle Ages



Douglas D.M. Joo and journalists at conference.

and we have neither succeeded nor perished."

Dr. Kwak struck a more optimistic chord. Touching on the role of the media, he said Rev. Sun Myung Moon, the founder of the World Media Association, "is certain that if the media... fulfills its social and educational role for the benefit of humankind... God's will for world peace will be fulfilled."

Speakers in Plenary Session I on the crisis in the family were Wesley Pruden, editor-in-chief of the Washington Times; author and syndicated columnist Maggie Gallagher; Professor Jong-Won Ha of Korea; and

William Devlin, president of the Urban Family Council.

In Plenary Session II, Arnaud de Borchgrave of CSIS, Professor Ikuo Kayahara of Japan, Bill Gertz of the Washington Times, and Miami Herald columnist Paul Crespo discussed the threat from weapons of mass destruction.

Speakers on the role of religion were John O'Sullivan of UPI; radio talk show host Armstrong Williams; and Joseph Grieboski, president of the Institute on Religion and Public Policy.

In addition, Douglas D.M. Joo, president of the Washington Times, spoke on "World Crisis and Media's Response: The Case of the Washington Times." He also gave insightful comments on the situation in Korea. Dr. Kwak presented "A Vision for the 21st Century and the Peace Movement of Rev. Sun Myung Moon." Veteran ABC News correspondent Sam Donaldson spoke at the closing luncheon.

For more information on these sessions, see the WMA website: wmassociation.com. The conference proceedings will be available for sale. Call (202) 636-3124. Fax: (202) 635-9227. Email: wma@wmassociation.com. ❀

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Our Opportunity

✦ the authority to help clarify the issues in the public mind. Visit classrooms, community groups, and workplaces across the United States and share your insights. When we speak, the community is enriched and awareness is raised. Plant seeds of hope and optimism. As you continue to build bridges across cultures, understanding, tolerance, and eventually peace will come.

We don't have to wait for war to break out in the Middle East or the Korean peninsula. The battle has already begun in our schools, our streets, our communities, our houses of worship, and even our families. The key to ending the confusion and solving our problems is to know and understand the causes. IIFWP and the AFP program seek to empower. We invite you to speak out and work with



Dr. Chang Shik Yang, Chairman, IIFWP North America.

your local chapter. This is our opportunity to live for the sake of others and make a real difference.

We have 2,600 Ambassadors for Peace across America. If all of us take responsibility to bring into our environment the value of service and love and live for the sake of oth-

ers, we can make a great impact in our communities all over the land. We can challenge the existing mindset of domination, selfishness, greed, morality, and indifference and create a different society – one in which people truly love each other regardless of race, nationality, religion, or economic position. God bless you all, Ambassadors for Peace. ❀



Antonio Betancourt, Secretary-General, IIFWP North America.

Canadian Interfaith Gatherings Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Montreal, Canada, January 15 and January 20, 2003

By Franco Famularo, Secretary-General, IIFWP-Canada

In January, two interfaith gatherings in Montreal honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., both co-sponsored by the Union United Church of Montreal and the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) of Montreal.

Interfaith Breakfast, Montreal City Hall, January 15:

In honor of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., over 100 men and women of faith gathered on a very cold morning for an inter-religious gathering jointly sponsored by the Union United Church and the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification of Montreal. Representatives of the Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Native, and several other traditions were in attendance and offered prayers representing each of their traditions. It should be noted that Martin Luther King Day is not yet a national holiday in Canada.

Montreal's mayor, Gerald Tremblay, welcomed the prestigious audience to the Hall of Honor of Montreal's City Hall and referred to the great efforts of Dr. King in his quest for peace and social justice. Mayor Tremblay quoted extensively from Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. In the audience was the first black woman to be Consul General for the United States, Hon. Bernadette Allen.

The Rev. Darryl Gray, pastor of the Union United Church, who is one of the foremost activist ministers in Montreal and who recently attracted national media attention to the plight of a Zimbabwean family and an Algerian Muslim family – both of whom had taken refuge in his church – exhorted the participants to go beyond the barriers of denominationalism and pursue the noble quest of inter-religious cooperation. He said that Dr. King's efforts were primarily to break down racial barriers and bigotry in any form.

The meeting was chaired by Helene Baptiste of the Martin Luther King Legacy committee in Montreal.

Rabbi Ronnie Cahana of congregation Beth-El, whose father, also a rabbi, was one of several members of the Jewish faith who stood together with Dr. King and even went to jail with him in the early 1960s, offered a



Mr. Gerald Tremblay, Mayor of Montreal, speaking to over 100 religious leaders at Montreal City Hall.

prayer representing the Jewish faith. He referred to the close affinity that the Jewish people have always felt with the struggle of the black people, especially as both people have a common experience with slavery.

Imam Moin Ghauri of the Longueuil Islamic Mosque then offered prayers in Arabic and English from the Islamic tradition. This was followed by prayers by Father Sean Harty of the Montreal Catholic Archdiocese and the Venerable Peter D. Hannen, Archdeacon of Montreal Anglican Diocese. From the Hindu tradition, Suthan Charma Durkai sang in Sanskrit, and Rev. Michael Shaheen of the Antiochian Orthodox Church prayed and made reference to the great work of Dr. King.

Mrs. Melissa Brosseau, wife of the local pastor of the FFWPU, then offered a prayer representing the Unificationist tradition founded by Rev. Sun Myung Moon. She referred to Dr. King as one of the great heroes of the Unification movement.

The Rev. Ron Boyer, President of the Catholic Native Council of Reconciliation, represented the native tradition with a prayer and expressed the appreciation of the native

people of Canada for Dr. King.

Rev. Gwenda Wells, of the McGill University Ecumenical Chaplaincy, gave a wonderful rendition in both English and French of a prayer for peace. She was followed by Father John Walsh, a well-known radio personality in Montreal and Catholic priest, who regularly hosts a radio program on radio stations across Canada. Minister Meredith Muhammad of the Nation of Islam, offered a prayer in honor of Dr. King and offered the view of Minister Louis Farrakhan. The Rev. Thomas Paul of the Madison Baptist Church offered concluding remarks and reminded us that Dr. King was indeed a Baptist preacher who saw beyond the walls of not only race but also of class and denominationalism.

This relatively short meeting (a little less than two hours) was filled with content and depth. The participants lingered after the breakfast meeting as Mayor Tremblay hosted everyone very warmly. All were then invited to an interfaith service at the Union United Church in downtown Montreal.

Interfaith Service, Union United Church, January 20:

On a very cold Monday evening, with the temperatures dipping to 40 below zero outside, the warm sanctuary of the Union United Church was filled with close to 1,000 people for the Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Committee of Montreal's 2nd Annual Commemoration and Candle Lighting Celebration.

After welcoming and opening remarks by the chairperson, Helen Baptiste, Tessa Griffin as emcee introduced the program with an opening prayer by Archdeacon James Bennett of St. Paul's Anglican Church. Mr. Peter Flegel then recounted a brief history of Dr. King's life.

This was followed with greetings by Franco Famularo, a representative of FFWPU, the co-sponsoring organization, who explained that Rev. Moon views Dr. King as the greatest American of the 20th century because of his struggle against racism and bigotry.

The executive director of the Canadian

Jewish Congress (Quebec Region), Mr. David Birnbaum, offered greetings on behalf of the Jewish community. Mr. Pierre Ancil, representative of the Quebec Government, followed with his comment as did representatives of the City of Montreal.

We then heard from the political sphere as Hon. Andre Boulerice, the minister responsible for immigration and citizenship for the government of Quebec, addressed the audience.

Member of Federal Parliament Hon. Irwin Cotler then addressed the audience and shared that he was fortunate enough to attend Dr. King's 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington where he was then a young law student. Hon. Cotler is well known for his efforts in support of human rights for all.

A prayer in Sanskrit was then offered by Suthan Charma Durkai Amman Koyil, followed by the music of the People's Gospel Choir of Montreal. Ms. Elisabeth Dembil, President of Black History Month, did the first reading, followed by the prayer of Rev. Father Economos Anthony Gabriel of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church.



Several religious leaders and representatives of IIFWP (l-r): Melissa Brosseau (IIFWP), Rev. Ron Boyer, (President, Catholic Native Council for Reconciliation), Ms. Helene Baptiste, (Chairperson, Martin Luther King Legacy committee), Robert Duffy (IIFWP), and Franco Famularo (IIFWP).

King's favorite hymn, "Precious Lord."

Ms. Ericka Wong represented Montreal's Chinese community, and Rev. Ron Boyer, President of the Catholic Native Council for Reconciliation, prayed representing the abo-

Hon. Shlomo Avital, brought greetings on behalf of the State of Israel. He was followed by Rabbi Leigh Learner of Temple Emanu El Beth Sholom in Montreal, a synagogue where Dr. King spoke in the mid 1960s.

Hon. Bernadette Allen, US Consul General to Montreal, gave the reading and comments. Her life exemplifies how far we have come since Dr. King's 1963 speech: The daughter of a postal worker and granddaughter of a chauffeur, not to mention a descendant of slaves, she is the first black woman to be a U.S. Consul General. The audience, who by then had been sitting for more than three hours, were glued to their seats.

A slight change in the schedule was introduced and awards were presented. One was to a teenager, Stephanie Costa, a ninth grade student, who won 1st prize in the Martin Luther King Essay Contest. This was followed by a special presentation to Rev. Gray by the President of IIFWP-Canada, Robert Duffy, who appointed Rev. Gray as an Ambassador for Peace and presented him with a special certificate signed by Dr. and Mrs. Moon. Mr. Duffy shared that although great leaders have often been considered pariahs initially, their seemingly radical views are later accepted as mainstream.

A prayer by Father John Walsh of St. John Brebeuf Catholic Church, who shared his own experience as an Irish Catholic with the black community in Montreal, was followed by a reading of the "I Have a Dream" speech by Tyrone Benskin, who very much invoked the spirit of Dr. King. Many sensed the presence of Dr. King's spirit.

The gathering ended with the presentations of the MLK Jr. Legacy Awards to several in attendance, prayers by Meg Roberts of the Unitarian Church and Minister Meredith Muhammed of the Nation of Islam, a singing of "We Shall Overcome," and a benediction by Rev. Ken Gordon of the Snowdon Baptist Church. Refreshments were served as the clock struck midnight and many lingered into the wee hours.

The gathering was a tremendous testimony to the power of God in bringing a very diverse group together in a very special church in a very special city. ❄



The Interfaith meeting was sponsored by the Union United Church and the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification of Montreal.

A highlight of the gathering was the lighting of five candles throughout the service (black, yellow, brown, red and white, representing the world's races). Each candle was lit by one of the children present who stayed up way past their bedtime on this very special evening. The meeting lasted from 7:00 p.m. till midnight.

Music was provided by Lauren Schwartz, the Daughters of Zion, Claire Jean Charles Boyce, and Michelle Sweeney, who sang Dr.

iginal people of Canada. This was followed by Rev. Gwenda Wells of the McGill University Ecumenical Chaplaincy.

But the meeting treaded on delicate ground as the Hon. Dr. Baker Abdel Munem, Ambassador and representative of the Palestinian Authority to Canada, honored Dr. King by sharing a rendition of Dr. King's speech in a Palestinian context. This was followed by the prayer of Imam Moin Ghauri.

The Consul General of Israel to Montreal,

Ambassadors for Peace Meet in Argentina to Strengthen Social and National Peace

Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 30, 2002
By Miguel Werner, IIFWP-Argentina

On November 30, 2002, Argentina's Ambassadors for Peace gathered in Buenos Aires for a formal, end-of-the-year meeting sponsored by the IIFWP. With an audience of approximately 170 leaders representing all walks of life, the event was a tremendous success.

Motoo Furuta, Senior Advisor of IIFWP Argentina, emphasized the potential of Argentina at this "moment of transition, in which the nation could play a leading role not only in South America, but also in the world." Dr. Jesús Blasnik, President of IIFWP-Argentina, encouraged everyone to seek perfection, the way our conscience guides us to go and to build true peace, "which begins inside of each one of us."

Ricardo de Sena, IIFWP Deputy Secretary-General for Latin America and the Caribbean, conveyed with passion and firm conviction the message of IIFWP that the Ambassadors for Peace become people who "live for the sake of others." Mr. de Sena explained in detail the role and mission of the Ambassadors for Peace, emphasizing that



Panelists from the Argentine meeting: Motoo Furuta, Ricardo de Sena, Gustavo Giuliano, and Luciano Cámara.

they "must be involved to end current conflicts, but also work hard in order to prevent future ones." He also stressed the need for Argentina to support the establishment of an Interreligious Council at the UN, which will allow for international conflicts to be resolved by going beyond the current national interests defended by each diplomatic rep-

resentative.

Gustavo Giuliano, president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, in a very colorful power point presentation on "The Spirit World and Marriage," demonstrated the reality of the invisible substantial world and the interaction between the "physical self" and the "spiritual self" in each individual. The conclusion was the crucial role of the family during our life on earth and the significance and sanctity of the sexual organs, through which love is consummated, life is transmitted and lineage is inherited.

Luciano Cámara, Secretary-General IIFWP Argentina, introduced the structure of IIFWP in Argentina and encouraged all participants to work harder the following year. He also gave a brief report on the accomplishments during 2001-2002: educational seminars, service projects, rededication marriage celebrations, the Campaign for Values-Based Sexual Education Programs, and various events appointing Ambassadors for Peace. ❖

Moslems, Christians, and Jews Come Together for Israeli Leadership Seminar

Jerusalem, Israel, December 25, 2002

Excerpted from an article by Prof. Eliezer Glaubach-Gal, President, Professors World Peace Academy, Israel

In the Holy Land, just as everywhere else around the world, 2002 was characterized by the trauma of September 11, which was no doubt like the beginning of World War III, with the attack against the democratic stronghold of the world – the U.S.A. – and all of democracy as represented by free people created in the image of God. This war is binding together all of mankind wherever they live. The feelings of uncertainty, frustration, and despair have affected everyone, and there is a danger of people losing hope, both as individuals and as members of the family of nations.

The leadership seminar participants expressed their views that we cannot differentiate between events on a worldwide level and those happening locally in the Middle East. With concern for the grave situation, we Moslems, Druze, Christians, and Jews have

congregated here in the Holy Land, with a profound and common belief in peace and unity amongst us as well as for the human race, with no difference between cultures, faiths, beliefs, and race, in order to honor the memories of victims of human violence throughout our area and the rest of the world and to seek for new prospects for peace and unity.

Professor Nachum Rakover, Israeli award-winner, gave an opening speech regarding the meaning of peace from the Jewish traditional perspective. Dr. Abe Masatoshi, Chairman of IIFWP-Israel, gave the keynote address, which provided us with deep and emotional inspiration, through his description of the "Unification Thought" of Dr. Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Founder of the IIFWP, which emphasizes the theoretical and practical foundations of the need for

and tangibility of world peace, instead of the unfortunate existing culture of war. This message also provides standards that enable religions and cultures to work together in order to solve basic problems relating to the private individual and the public at large.

The conference held four panel discussions: The Role of a Peace Ambassador, Religion as an Encouragement for World Peace, Use of the Media to Encourage World Peace, and Education of Morals and Tolerance. This conference was in fact an encouraging link of intensive activities for IIFWP in the Holy Land that succeeded in uniting the best "peace forces" in the region who believe in a better and promising future of peace and unity for our community, giving us the strength to continue our work and strive for the future. ❖

Women's Federation Active in Democratic Republic of the Congo

Excerpted from a report by Mrs. Marie Jeanne Balungila, Secretary General, WFWP DRC

The Women's Federation for World Peace is very grateful and proud of our activities in the year 2002. We accomplished much with few resources because of the dedication of our members and look forward to greater results in the year 2003. Following is a summary of some of our activities.

March 9: In collaboration with other NGOs, a conference was held in Song Hwa Institute on the theme, "Women's Responsibility in Combating AIDS," attended by 135 students.

April 13: During the 10th WFWP anniversary, a meeting was held on the theme, "Women's Role in the 3rd Millennium" in a restaurant Palmier d'or attended by 48 VIPs.

July 29-August 7: A 7-day workshop was held in the Palais du Peuple with women agents of the National Service on the theme "Family Ethics and Women's Implication in



WFWP participated in the conference, "Women's Contribution to the Peace Process in the Great Lakes Region."

Home Stability," attended by 70 women.

September 21-28: WFWP participated in the International Day of Peace and the National Week of Peace in the DR Congo. Many activities were organized on the theme, "Peace Is Not Just a Word But a Lifestyle." During that week, WFWP organized a night of prayer, which was attended by 185 guests and WFWP members.

December 21: WFWP participated in the conference, "Women's Contribution to the Peace Process in the Great Lakes Region," organized in collaboration with the World Association of NGOs (WANGO), and attended by 63 NGO representatives.

December 28: Hoon dok hae lecture on the theme "God Is the Origin of Peace," based on a speech delivered by the Founder of WFWP, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, during her worldwide tour. It was attended by 52 VIPs in the Palais du Peuple.

For information, advice, and support for the Year 2003, please contact Mrs. Marie Jeanne Balungila at DR Congo WFWP HQ, at ffpm-rdc@voila.fr. The Women's Federation for World Peace is an international Non-Governmental Organization in Consultative Status with ECOSOC, whose international headquarters are located in New York and Seoul, Korea. ❄

Nepal's First RYS Project Reaps Great Rewards

Nepal, December 20-24, 2002

By Dr. Kishor Rajbhandari, IIFWP Representative, Nepal

In the situation of national conflict and low public morale, like that in Maoist-affected villages in Nepal, the Religious Youth Service (RYS) has the potential to be of great significance and bring great success. That potential was fulfilled with the first RYS Nepal Project (an Ambassador for Peace Project) held in Barahathwa, Sarlahi, Nepal, December 20-24, 2002.

Conducted on the Asiatic regional level, the project included building a garage and an office room for the ambulance service. The site is a Maoist-affected area about 350 km from the capital city of Kathmandu. The project was inaugurated with a tree plantation initiated by a local person belonging to an untouchable cast.

One of the Ambassadors for Peace, Hon. Ram Hari Joshy, former Minister of Education and Tourism, was the initiator and inspiration for the project. The participants were from different faiths, cultures, professions, and localities of India and Nepal. The project was designed to bring the participants "heartistically" closer together, so different activities were included in the program to bring this result.

Overall, however, the construction work was the centerpiece for everyone to come together. The local people and local VIPs joined in to work together with the participants. Some local persons came with cold juice and fruits to feed the participants and the working people. It was like a festival for the entire village.

During the closing ceremony, participants shared their deep feelings of love for the villagers and for each other. They expressed their experiences with the greatest joy. National and international students with bachelor's and master's degrees worked with joy and excitement in the village for the local people and left a great impact on the villagers and local VIPs. At the closing ceremony, the local VIPs stated that they came to know from the RYS program what they needed to do and how to do it. They also expressed their commitment to continue this project.

Hon. Joshy was the guest of honor at the closing ceremony. After hearing everybody's sharing, Hon. Joshy congratulated the educational efficiency of the RYS project and thanked Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon for initi-



Ambassador for Peace, Hon. Ram Hari Joshy, former Minister of Education and Tourism addressing audience.

ating these activities worldwide. He also emphasized the importance of this project within the context of the present situation in Nepal, where the whole country is under the severe dominion of Maoist activists.

In conclusion, we can say that the success of the project outweighed any expense. Not less than two-thirds of the project budget came from the local institutions and local people. The building is bigger than initially planned. Although there were only 15 RYS participants, the whole village could be educated from this program. To work for the sake of others is the highest service we can do and to develop it within our own personal lifestyle is the highest reward for any human being. That was the lesson learned from RYS Nepal. ❄

God and World Peace: An Exploration of the Significance of God for a World in Crisis

Washington, DC, December 26-29, 2002

Adapted from an article by Nadine Andre, Public Relations, IIFWP Headquarters

On December 26-29, 2002, IIFWP sponsored its concluding conference for the year called, "God and World Peace: An Exploration of the Significance of God for a World in Crisis," in Washington, DC. More than 300 participants representing 79 nations attended this conference co-sponsored by the United Press International Foundation and the Washington Times Foundation. Including day guests, 400 guests attended the main events.

The clear consensus of the participants and organizers was that this gathering had a resonance, focus, and energy unique in all of IIFWP's vast conference experiences. Why so? Perhaps it was the timing at the culmination of a year, a natural occasion for reflection and re-determination. Certainly contributing was the Founder's three-hour address at the Opening Plenary emphasizing that the transformation of our world begins with the transformation of ourselves, our families, and our tribes. Or consider that the conference's theme placed God squarely at the center of all experience. Surely the spirit of God would respond with joy.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, Secretary General of IIFWP, welcomed the participants and speakers. Hon. Hamilton Green, former President of Guyana and current Mayor of Georgetown, and Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi from the House of Wisdom in Michigan gave the opening remarks. Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, Chairman of IIFWP and Chairman and President of United Press International, gave the Keynote Address.

The next day, the conference moderator, Dr. Neil Salonen, President of the University of Bridgeport, explained the Founder's vision in creating IIFWP. Speakers included Hon. Stanislav Shushkevich, former President of Belarus; Hon. Rodrigo Carazo, former President of Costa Rica; and Mr. Jim Tovey, Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

Hon. Danny Davis, U.S. Congressman [D-Illinois], told the group that the holiday season "is a time to pause and reflect on the things that matter most; family is what endures. Finery, fortune, success will all go, but family and God are what endures." He spoke about the criticism of Rev. Moon in

this way, "You are not criticized unless you are doing something. We must all turn stumbling blocks into stepping stones!"

In his Founder's remarks, Rev. Moon said he would speak to the participants as his sons and daughters since no one there was older than him. He outlined his vision and why he has undertaken the work that has defined his life. He concluded by saying, "We will arrive in an age in which God and humankind live as one in the original ideal world, the world of the heart. We will arrive in an age where we realize that living for the sake of others holds greater eternal value than living for ourselves. The blind age of self-centered life will pass away, as we build an other-centered world of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values."



Jim Tovey, Director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives at the opening plenary.

The panel sessions addressed the role of God in world peace in the areas of religion, governance, education, media, family, economics, science, and arts. Details can be found at www.iifwp.org. Click on e-news and choose Vol. 2, No. 1. ✱

The World Summit of Leadership and Governance

February 4-7, 2003 – Seoul, Korea

Excerpted from an article by Nadine Andre, Public Relations, IIFWP Headquarters

The World Summit of Leadership and Governance, held February 4-7, 2003, at the Lotte Hotel in Seoul, South Korea, was a timely event. As the world stands poised on the brink of war, the Summit explored ways to develop new structures and policies of peace designed to lift the world out of its present crisis.

Two high-level sessions focused specifically on the crises in the Middle East and the Korean Peninsula. The 176 leaders who attended, representing over 70 nations, included current and former heads of state, members of parliament, government and diplomatic leaders, religious leaders, professors, and NGO and media representatives.

The Summit was honored by the participation of three Nobel Prize laureates: Dr. Jose Ramos Horta, East Timor; Hon. Lech Walesa, President of Poland, 1990-95; and Mrs. Betty Williams from Northern Ireland.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, Secretary General of IIFWP, welcomed the participants to Seoul, and Rev. Don Olson, Pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in the USA, gave the invocation. Speakers included Dr. Horta; H.E. Stanislav Shushkevich, President of Belarus (1991-1994) and one of the world Summit's co-chairs; and Hon. Sayera Umarovna Sultanova, former Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan.

Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, Chairman of IIFWP, said in his Opening Statement, "Together we will consider some of the pressing problems we face in our world today. We all can see clearly the interconnectedness of our world. The local and the global are inextricably linked."

More than 700 guests attended the Opening Plenary. The reporters interviewed



H.E. Stanislav Shushkevich, former president of Belarus.

IIFWP Middle East Peace Initiative: Beyond Co-Existence

Arlington, VA, February 27-March 1, 2003

Adapted from an article by Gordon L. Anderson, Ph.D.

Participants from 40 nations gathered at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA, on February 27 to attend the Middle East Peace Initiative sponsored by the IIFWP. They included both Arabs and Jews from Israel, Muslims from Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen, Oman, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Slovenia, Sudan, and Pakistan, and a combination of Christians, Muslims, and Jews from the United States, Europe, Russia, Asia, and Africa. The subtitle of the IIFWP initiative was "Beyond Co-Existence Toward a New Culture of Peace."

At the opening plenary, IIFWP Chairman Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak stated that some people had advised IIFWP not to hold a peace conference at the present time because emotions would be too high for constructive dialogue. Nevertheless, the IIFWP viewed the situation as urgent and hoped that this last-minute effort might be a condition that would help avert a destructive war.

Dr. Kwak pointed out that "the enmity and disunity among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam is a great scandal... [that] prevents



Newly appointed Ambassadors for Peace with the Founders.

peace from being achieved. It contributes to suffering and unnecessary bloodshed.... If we are focused only on our own benefit or the benefit that may come to our own religion or culture, we do not provide world-level leadership, but something more narrow that neither pleases God nor moves us toward finding solutions to critical problems."

The plenary sessions were designed to address broad themes that would stimulate wide agreement and constructive dialogue.

The speakers kept their discussions at a level of generalization that would encourage agreement by all parties. However, in the discussion that followed, many were reminding people of past injustice that had to be solved first; they were clearly resisting loving or forgiving their enemy.

The atmosphere was quite different on the second evening, when, after dinner, guests and organizers sang and celebrated together. The Israeli delegation, made up of people usually presumed to be at war with one another, showed deep love and abiding unity. They revealed in the present, the future world we seek to build. Their beauty gave hope and brought many to tears.

At the final session, Rev. Moon, IIFWP's founder, spoke about the necessity of the leaders of all the Abrahamic religions to live together as God's children. He asked them to give God the grandchildren that God was never able to have because of the fall of Adam and Eve. Using the imagery of God as a parent, he asked basic questions about

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Renewal of Our Nation

Paris, France, January 18, 2003

Excerpted from a report by Hanna L., IIFWP-France

This program was part of a series of conferences sponsored by the IIFWP to help leaders think about the internal reformation of their nation.

Former Prime Minister Lionel Jospin said that for years the various governments had naively thought that economic and social reforms would bring about the necessary changes. He said that new approaches were needed. The French government is thus thinking about "moral education."

Mr. Paul Frank, Honorary Member of the Supreme Court of Luxemburg and General Secretary of IIFWP, Europe, suggested that the people present at the IIFWP Paris Conference find areas where they can cooperate together for the sake of France and Europe. He gave the example of a Catholic Ambassador for Peace from Luxemburg who initiated a team of several people who now work together, offering to the Luxemburg society a precious tool for the sexual educa-

tion of young people. Mr. Frank presented an idea developed by the International Relief Friendship Foundation that involves family service.

Mr. Bernard Zamaron, delegate from the Robert Schuman Center for Europe and Ambassador for Peace, reminded us that religion comes from the Latin "religare": to relate, or to connect. "The important point," he said, "is the vertical connection between human beings and a power above ourselves." He reminded us that Robert Schuman, one of the founding fathers of Europe, had a vertical sense and advocated reconciliation between the Germans and the French, just five years after the end of Nazism. "Without the vertical axis, this would never have worked. The problem is that nowadays, 99 percent of the people think of their bank account on earth, and not so much about their soul-account in Heaven."

Debates followed at each table. A former Algerian ambassador advocated that France



Conference participants during break-out session.

needed an anthology of religious scriptures concerning morality. "All religions," he said, "have a common view on what good and evil are."

After a coffee break, the second part of the program began. Two panelists talked about youth, and how to prepare young people for successful lives. Mr. Laurent Ladouce concluded with some Unificationist insights on successful youth. The guests expressed their gratitude for being invited to such a wonderful program. ❄

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World Summit

☛ everyone from Hon. Lech Walesa to the Lotte hotel manager to find out the impact this major gathering was having.

Other speakers included Mrs. Williams; H.E. Abdurrahman Wahid, former President of the Republic of Indonesia, 1999-2001; and H.E. Sir Allan Kemakeza, Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands.

Rev. Dr. Kwak introduced the Founders, noting that what was unique about the occasion was that in addition to the Summit, both Rev. and Mrs. Moon were celebrating their birthdays the following day on February 6. This lent another dimension to the proceedings as an acknowledgement of their lifelong work. Each of the speakers congratulated them for their contribution towards peace.

The sessions and special breakouts on the Middle East and Korea were considered most informative. Details can be found at the website: ww.iifwp.org. Click on e-news and choose Vol. 2, No. 2. ❁

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Middle East Peace Initiative

☛ human beings that stumped the high-ranking religious leaders and scholars in the audience, questions like, "What is more important, love life, or lineage?" or "Would God want to see Cain killed after what he did to Abel?" It was clear that the religious leaders present who had spent their lives studying scriptures and officiating ceremonies did not easily or confidently answer them.

Rev. Moon, now 83 years old, asked those present to exceed the work he has done in his lifetime to bring unity among the world's religions. Like parents who want their children to have a better world, Rev. Moon wanted these junior religious leaders to go beyond him. He suggested peace would come quickly if Jewish and Muslim leaders would marry their children to one another to break down the walls of prejudice and hatred.

The message was a strong challenge, but one in keeping with the theme of going beyond co-existence that had drawn participants to the event. The participants were, on the whole, open to going beyond their inherited pasts and their present social institutions, in the interest of peace in the Middle East. That, to me, is a sign of real hope that peace has a chance in the Middle East.❁

UPCOMING EVENTS

World Culture and Sports Festival 2003 – Korea

WCSF 2003 will be held May 22-25 at Sun Moon University in Korea and will include an Interreligious Blessing for young unmarried couples, the Interreligious Peace Sports Festival, a World CARP Convention, Service for Peace events, etc., plus the IIFWP Assembly.

Press Release

Interreligious Peace Sports Festival

A Project of the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace

The inauguration of the Interreligious Peace Sports Festival will take place near Seoul, Korea on May 21-25, 2003, as part of the World Culture and Sports Festival. Young athletes between the ages of 16-23, from all continents, will gather in the spirit of cooperation to compete as representatives of their religions.

Today the world is suffering from numerous conflicts that are linked not only to nationalism also to religious and cultural differences. The worldwide appeal of sports can be a powerful and unique catalyst for cultural change. The Interreligious Peace Sports Festival utilizes this potential and provides international athletes an opportunity to contribute to the development of a culture of peace by creating a new legacy of cooperation, respect and reconciliation.

Dr. Sun Myung Moon initiated the festival. Advisors representing a wide range of religious traditions are supporting the sporting event and contributing to an environment in which each athlete strives for personal excellence, team cooperation and respect for others.

The Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP) and its worldwide network of Ambassadors for Peace are sponsoring this event in cooperation with various sporting clubs, government ministries, non-governmental organizations and businesses.

The 2003 Interreligious Peace Sports Festival will include sporting events such as: Track, Long Jump, High Jump, Shot Put, Swimming, Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis, Badminton and Table Tennis.

For more information and applications please contact:

Interreligious Peace Sports Festival

c/o Interreligious International Federation for World Peace

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