

UPF and WFWP Meeting on the topic of "Character Education".

Birmingham, UK, 11. September 2013

Jack Corley

On the 12th anniversary of the tragic attack on the World Trade Centre in New York, we held a Peace Meeting to discuss 'Character Education' and the possibility of a better future for young people, and the world in general. People of all races, religions and cultures died on that day in downtown Manhattan and, poignantly, we counted a total of 40 nationalities represented at our Peace Meeting, symbolic of the universal aspiration for a better world.

In total 124 people, our largest audience to date, came to hear Mr Jack Corley speak, giving 2 presentations on Character Education and Conflict Resolution. We were teachers, lawyers, doctors and nurses, social workers, city councillors, refugees and asylum seekers - representatives of the whole spectrum of social status! We had a notable apology from the Deputy Police Commissioner for Crime, who had hoped to be with us. In fact, quite a number of people sent their apologies which was just as well because the audience overflowed into our new extension, then into a smaller TV room, and finally into our dining room!



Around 60 people could fit into the main meeting room, with another 60 or so spread around the house.

Based on his many years of work, travelling the length and breadth of the former Soviet Union and China, and working with others to develop a Curriculum to teach about Character Development in schools, Mr Corley spoke in the first session about education of the heart to become a mature individual, education of norms of behaviour to be able to relate properly with others, and education for mastery to develop the ability to make a positive contribution to society through studies and a meaningful career. In the second session, he spoke about the cause of conflict, rooted in an imbalance between our personal needs and public responsibilities, and how we can develop the ability to resolve conflict, and bring peace and reconciliation.



Extension room.



TV room.



Dining room.

There were a number of good questions and comments from the floor afterwards and several people, particularly educators, requested a copy of the slides which Mr Corley had used in his presentations. We hope to follow up with further discussion at a later date, and to explore possibilities of collaboration to use the material in situations which can impact on, and benefit, young people.

Needless to say, there was a lot of discussion and networking during the time for refreshments and sharing, following the official end of the meeting. The last people departed at around 10.30pm. A very satisfying evening.

