

International Day of Peace 2015 in Nigeria

George M. Ogurie
September 25, 2015



By WFWP Nigeria: Women's Federation for World Peace Nigeria celebrated the International Day of Peace 2015 on Friday September 25, 2015 with over seventy distinguished guests at the Conference Hall of the Nigerian Union of Teachers, Lagos State Secretariat, Agidingbi, Ikeja, Lagos. This was on the Islamic holiday of Id-el-Kabir.

A keynote lecture titled – “The Family as the Centre for Peace”, was delivered by Reverend George M. Ogurie, President and National Leader of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, Nigeria. Reverend Ogurie pointed out during the lecture, that societal ills such as violent crimes, sexual immoralities, domestic violence, rising rates of divorce, blatant homosexuality are signs of weaknesses in our current family structure. He then presented a synopsis of Family Education Principles as taught by FFWPU/WFWP founders, Rev Dr. Sun Myung Moon & Dr Mrs Hak Ja Han Moon, as well as the Marriage Blessing Ceremony which are meant to address these problems.

The lecture delved into the family model in which “Four Great Realms of Heart (love)” are perfected: the realm of children's love, the realm of siblings love, the realm of conjugal love and the realm of parental love. The lecture also showed that an ideal family is one in which the three generations of grandparents, parents and children have attained oneness based on true love, making the family a school of love. An ideal family presents the opportunity to love all categories of persons: the young, the middle age and the elderly, as well one's peers at any level. That is why the community, nation and world are extensions of the family. And so it is in our families that we ought to learn to love our neighbours, to be patriotic and to love God.



Rev Ogurie pointed out that the merit of FFWPU Family Education Principles and the Marriage Blessing program is their interfaith and cross-cultural appeal, particularly in the Nigerian context. He especially invited married couples to join a National Marriage Blessing event slated for 12 December 2015 in Abuja to renew their marital commitment and to re-direct their family toward becoming such a school of love.

Earlier in an opening remark, the chairman of the event Barrister Mbanugo Udenze echoed a statement credited to Pope Francis during his recent tour of the Americas that what the world needs at this time is dialogue in resolving conflicts and achieving peace. He said that a meeting such as this was an opportunity to gain exposure to diverse shades of opinions that will shape the emergence of a new world order.

A high point of the event was the presentation of the Exemplary Couple Award to Professor and Mrs Tajudeen Gbadamosi. This award to the Gbadamosis came ahead of the celebration of their golden jubilee next year. They have been peacefully married for 49 years. Professor Gbadamosi is a retired professor of history from the University of Lagos and is currently Chairman of the Governing Council of Lagos State Polytechnic. Mrs Gbadamosi is a fellow of the Institute of Science and Technology of the Paddington College, London and a retired Chief Technical Officer from Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi (FIIRO). They have two children, Mrs Folusho Fatunla who lives in London with her family and Dr Lekan Gbadamosi, a lecturer at University of Lagos. Both children were adopted. Professor and Mrs Gbadamosi are devout Muslims.



Other awards presented at the event include the Family Empowerment Award, the Women Ambassador for Peace Award and the Young Ambassador for Peace Award. The Family Empowerment Award was presented to Mr. Emmanuel Abayomi Aduwo, Princess Fatima Zul-Gambari and Prophet Gabriel Onaolapo. While TV Presenter Ariyeke Akinbobola, Mrs. Cornelia Ubong, Dr Maymuna Yusuf Kadu, Mrs Sally Othihiwa and Princess Zul-Gambari received the Women Ambassador for Peace Award. The Young Ambassador for Peace Award was presented to Comrade Lateef Idowu Oyelekan, Vice President of Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and President of National Union of Food and Beverages Workers Union.

TV Presenter Ariyeke Akinbobola speaking on behalf of the awardees thanked the organizers for the honour, and pledged to live up to expectation as worthy Ambassadors.

Mrs Laduni Lawal who came to support her daughter, Ariyeke, to receive the Women Ambassador award said she was profoundly inspired by the lecture. She called on governmental and traditional authorities, as well as non-governmental organizations to key into tackling societal problems at the roots, the family. She commended Women's Federation for World Peace for its laudable initiatives and promised to attend the December 12 Blessing event in Abuja.

WFWP representative in Lagos, Mrs Juliet Nkanta and her husband Rev Imo Nkanta must be commended for their investment in making the event a success.