

Report and Videos of Peace Road 2020 USA in Las Vegas, Nevada

Leslie Rigney
August 14, 2020



Our Peace Road travelers arrived late on Thursday night, yet were ready to go for our 8 AM Program. Rev. Doo led a program at the Las Vegas Sign, near the billboards with True Mother's Picture and 'Heavenly Parent's Holy Community.

Rev. John Jackson, our Subregional leader for Region 4 was our MC. He poured out his heart in a message remembering the 58 who lost their lives October 1, 2017 at a Country Music Concert not far away, with more than 400 wounded. Rev. Jackson praised the police, that when everyone was running away from the shooting, they were running into it.

Dr. Michael Jenkins, Chairman of UPF USA spoke passionately of the Peace Road project and especially how it connects with unity of North and South Korea. He spoke of the deep need for reconciliation in our country, as the Elder Son nation.



Our guest speaker was Deputy Chief John McGrath. Sheriff Lombardo was out of town. He asked Deputy Chief McGrath to come in his place. This was very appropriate, as DC McGrath is responsible for Tourism Safety and the Las Vegas Blvd Corridor. He was on duty the night of the shooting in October, 2017. DC McGrath spoke in deep appreciation for 'Peace Road' and for prayers for the police. He said prayers are needed. He spoke of how important their connection to the community is and how that connection is fostered by listening to others and their concerns. That thru listening and connecting, peace can develop.

A gift of '1000 Cranes' was given to DC McGrath for the Las Vegas Metro Police Department. He was very appreciative. He was also given 2 books of True Mother's Memoirs. It felt like UPF had made a new friend on the road to Peace.

The Peace Riders, 15 CARP and GPA students on bicycles, who had arrived from IPEC, left on their way to the Mormon Fort, with much cheering and well wishing!



The next stop was at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort. This was designated as a State Park and Historic site. It was the first place where settlers came, Mormon Missionaries. It was next to a spring where water was available. It was a place travelers from California could stop in their travels. Paiute Indians lived nearby and shared the water and were helpful with farming techniques. Hispanic people also came and settled. When the Hoover Dam was being built, many Americans of African descent arrived, being told they had to live on the West Side. Chinese people also came for the mining and the railroads, receiving much persecution and rejection by others and by the government. At the Mormon Fort, we were honoring all these groups of Americans.

Nevada State Senator Mo Denis spoke first. His parents came to the USA from Cuba. His Senate District includes where we were. He spoke of the Hispanic situation. He said their main focus is their family and their love for one another. The Hispanic population in Nevada is 25% of the population. In some school districts, 70% of the children are Hispanic. He said any legislation needs to consider the family, which is the foundation for society. He appreciated Peace Road. He said what we can do to make a difference is to love our neighbor and get to know one another and appreciate the differences.

Dr. Jason Wasden, who is UNLV CARP advisor was MC. He invited his family to come up. His wife is a direct descendent of the original Mormon Missionaries. She said they did well because they formed good friendships with the Paiute Indians.

Dr. Michael Jenkins spoke about Peace Road and reconciliation as a foundation for peace, repentance, love and care of others. He praised the Peace Road Riders, who are traveling from Plymouth to Alaska, to bring reconciliation and healing. Dr. Jenkins and his wife are also traveling with the youth!

The Peace Riders came on their bicycles to join us.

A proclamation was read by Dr. Wasden that was sent by Mayor John Lee of North Las Vegas and also signed by all the Council members, declaring August 14 as "Peace Road Day".

Several prayers were offered by Roger Liu, for the Chinese, Stephanie Diaz, for the Hispanic, Sera Hirano, for the Native American, and by Elder Rowberry and his wife for the Missionaries, and all people of faith.

There was a real spirit of unity and feeling of family, as we experienced the vision of our True Parents. We were all grateful to meet Elder Rowberry. He had given True Father a special proclamation about family. True Father had given him a watch, in gratitude. He is very interested in continuing a reconnection with us.

Next, we went to Harrison House. Katherine Duncan explained how segregation prevented the Black Entertainers from staying in the Casinos, but had to stay in humble houses on the West Side. Harrison House was one of those places. It has since been made a Historic Site and part of the "Pioneer Trail".

Katherine brought everyone inside and explained that we need to know:

Learning to love ourselves, lets us love others. We are all one human family

We need to see color, recognize what others endured, bring healing

Stop pointing fingers, forgive and liberate ancestors

Don't deny racism, recognize, deal with it.

Take care of our environment, learn sustainability

Rev. Steven Crymes then gave a beautiful prayer.



Dr. Jenkins addressed the group about Peace Road and reconciliation. He praised Katherine for her work and educating about racism.

An entertainer, Devon, spoke very sincerely about the Black entertainment industry, the effect of a culture that points fingers, and the effect of racism on the West Side community. He emphasized how much we need to see the best in others.

Several people shared sincerely about their experiences, which was meaningful to everyone there. The value of Harrison House was recognized.

There was next a spontaneous meeting at Bishop Ron Thomas' Church. Bishop Thomas spoke to the Peace Riders. Akira Watanabe said a very meaningful prayer for Bishop Thomas. It was a spontaneous meeting of reconciliation.

After, Rev. Doo treated the National Peace Team to an 'all you can eat' Korea Buffet.

We were all grateful for a wonderful day of Peace Road Las Vegas!

Sincerely reported,

Leslie Rigney