

JULY 2008

# UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

## AMERICA **S**UMMIT

Latin America Peace Tour

Sports and Peace

The Problem with War

A publication of the UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION (UPF)

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

In recent weeks, the Universal Peace Federation has been developing its new Americas Initiative, and in this issue we bring you news of some of the most exciting developments. These include the South and Central America Peace Tour to six nations, and the Americas Summit in Washington, DC, and College Station, Texas, that included seven former heads of state including the 41st President of the United States, George Bush. The UPF's Founder, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, has been investing in the region for more than a decade, and the initiative takes many of his long-established projects to a new level.

In our global news section we are pleased to feature news of a peaceful service project for children in Lebanon, a country that has seen so much conflict in recent years and yet is once again rebuilding with hope in the future. From Russia, we learn about preparations for the Global Peace Festivals planned in that country and in 22 locations around the world this summer and fall, and from Korea, about excitement mounting for the Peace Queen Cup, the biannual football [soccer] tournament that is once again attracting top women's national teams from around the world.

Finally, we hear some more inspiring stories of transformation from our Ambassadors for Peace in different nations. Just a reminder: we'd like to hear more from you. UPF Today accepts articles to be considered for publication, with a maximum length of 1,000 words. With the magazine now appearing in several languages – English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese, to mention but a few, writing for UPF Today is one way to reach the world!



Dr. Thomas G. Walsh,  
Secretary General, UPF

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## UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

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# A NEW VISION OF PEACE FOR THE AMERICAS

By Michael Balcomb

The Americas Summit in Washington, DC, April 28 to May 2, 2008, brought together 160 delegates from 32 nations in North and South America from Canada to Argentina and Chile to consider the challenges and opportunities for better relationships throughout the hemisphere. The conference participants included six former heads of state and government, four current speakers of the house, 27 congressmen and senators from different legislatures, members of the diplomatic corps, clergy from key faith traditions, and community, youth and women leaders.

With the hopeful news of the election of new governments in many nations on the one hand, and concern about the rise of potentially destabilizing populist movements on the other, the participants were set the difficult task of examining new paradigms for leadership and development.

Some speakers proposed that the region can take up the road of peace by sustained economic growth accompanied by genuine human development. “The best way to achieve sustainable growth in our countries,” said Hon Lilian Samaniego, a senator from Paraguay, “is through international cooperation. This collaboration should include Latin American countries themselves along with our North American neighbors and our European friends, with whom we share profound historical and cultural ties.”

Hon. Peter Montoute, Vice Prime Minister of St. Lucia, said that the Caribbean nations with their experiences in the areas of human rights, adherence to the rule of law, and smooth transfer of governments can be positive influences in any closer ties which may be established within the region.

This issue includes excerpts from six speeches that reflect a diversity of backgrounds and experiences but express similar visions for collaborations to promote peace and development.

The event was part of UPF’s series of International Leadership Conferences, designed to examine in some depth the importance of shared spiritual and cultural values as the most important ingredient for change. The ILC introduced the key concepts of the UPF Peace Education curriculum, which emphasizes strong families, interfaith unity, and an unwavering

commitment to personal integrity and self-discipline as the foundations for lasting change.

One of the highlights of the three-day conference was a field trip by chartered flight to the George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A & M University in College Station, Texas. Newly renovated, the library offers an intimate glimpse into the long life of public service of the former president, and was of great interest to many of the delegates from South and Central America who remember the Bush presidency’s welcome focus on the region.

“We believe that groups of political, religious and community leaders such as these working together in new partnerships hold the key to lasting peace,” said Dr. Thomas Walsh, UPF Secretary General. Leaders should act not like the quarreling brothers that they sometimes were while in active office, but with wisdom and impartiality act more like the parents of their nations.

“Of course, some may indeed doubt that peace is possible,” said Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon in her closing address, “but where there is a will, there is always a way—especially if it is the will of God!”



Participants in the Americas Summit came from 32 nations.

# COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

By George H.W. Bush  
President of the United States, 1989-1993

I'm glad to see all of you here. I had a nice visit with Rev. Moon and thank him for bringing this prestigious group to Texas A & M University.



First of all I want to thank the organizers from the Universal Peace Federation and *The Washington Times* Foundation. I believed then and I believe today that *The Washington Times* has helped to bring a much-needed sense of balance and perspective to news coverage in our capital city.

The challenges we face in our own country and those regional matters we share as neighbors are as complex as they are compelling. As a result, the demands being placed on many public servants, like you, are as great as they have ever been. These challenges are too important to leaders entrusted to provide for the general welfare to get wrong.

Now is not the time for us to start turning inward—speaking of my country. Back in 1990 I remember taking what many people considered an ill-advised trip to Cartagena, Colombia, as president

*The challenges we face in our own country and those regional matters we share as neighbors are as complex as they are compelling.*

to show America's solidarity with those who simply want to live in peace and toss aside the shackles and the dangerous dictates of the drug lords and terrorists. But I am very glad I went and showed that the United States cares about this battle against narco-trafficking.

Working together for peace and development in Colombia is terribly important. Throughout the hemisphere it is important, and I hope it continues to be an area of strong and productive bi-partisanship. It should be a matter of conscience and not conflict.

I salute you for your commitment to excellence in public service. And I salute Rev. Moon and his associates for what he is doing to help in that very important way.

I know I get a big argument on this right here in the United States, but I believe politics and political service is honorable. I believe that public service is an honorable calling. Sure, there are people who break the public trust. But I was delighted to have spent a good deal of time in elected office and appointed office. I have great respect for the system.



# NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN A NEW WORLD

By Julio Sanguinetti

President of Uruguay, 1985-1990, 1995-2000



*Wisdom is to add to our knowledge the orbit of affection, spirit, dignity, and the spiritual dimension, which continues to be the only force that can move mountains.*

us is a clear horizon, radiant but unknown. In the middle is something like an ocean that is moving, changing, and difficult to define. And as we walk, we do not know if we are stepping on seeds or ashes." Are they the seeds of the future, or the ashes of the past? What lies before us is a new world. It is characterized by globalization, scientific and technological revolution, political democracy, market economy, and knowledge society—a pluralistic world after the Cold War.

Globalization is helping us come together as human beings. A revolution is stirring. Elements that promote well-being are being globalized, but along with them come drugs, drug trafficking, vices, etc. It also weakens the state. There are risks, which lead to

It is a joy to be here, with an open mind to understand a new world. We need to see Latin America as one unit. Today we listened to Monsignor Luis del Castillo, a Roman Catholic bishop, and Rev. Moon speak of different approaches to a same spirituality. Some of us do not belong to any religion, but we share spiritual values in common. Therefore, we can agree on the ideas of family, human dignity, freedom of conscience, and human rights.

As a poet said, "What we leave behind is irreversible, overcome, but the cast-off robes of absolutism are struggling in an attempt to survive. Before

problems. The scientific and technological revolution is marvelous because it allows us to live longer and better lives. But it can also destroy the world. The states are responsible to control it.

Churchill said, "No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." Latin America is making great efforts. Are we handling our money well? I doubt it. We have a pluralistic world. There is more equilibrium.

There was no Cold War in Latin America; instead there were guerrillas and narco-guerrillas. We need a peaceful solution. In this area we need opinion leaders, religious and civil leaders—people on the front line to fight for peace and confidence.

I think that the twenty-first century will be a century of knowledge. This is a challenge for the developing countries. In a study of the mathematical, language, and technological knowledge of students, the best results were in Korea, Finland, Ireland, and Estonia. What drives development in these countries is organization, methodology, and the educational system. It's not just money. It is creative ability and analytical capacity.

An individual does not develop in isolation; development depends on receiving affection in the family. As the poem goes: What kind of knowledge is based only on information, and what kind of wisdom is based only on knowledge?"

Wisdom is to add to our knowledge the orbit of affection, spirit, dignity, and the spiritual dimension, which continues to be the only force that can move mountains.

**Cecil Joseph, Mayor of Roseau, Dominica, raises questions about the impact of free-trade agreements on Caribbean nations.**



# ¡VIVA LA EVOLUCIÓN!

By Charles Shapiro

Senior Coordinator for the Western Hemisphere Free Trade Agreement Task Force, U.S. State Department

Today I want to propose a new slogan for Latin America: not *¡Viva la revolución!* but *¡Viva la evolución!*, because I think that's what's been taking place there and we in the developed world have not been paying attention to it. To the extent that the media in the United States focuses on Latin America, we tend to focus on Fidel Castro, Hugo Chavez—colorful figures who make news. But while the people in the United States have not been paying sufficient attention to Latin America, there has been an important transformation going on.



Latin America and the Caribbean have been enjoying sustained economic growth, accompanied by the increased strengthening and solidification of their democratic institutions. Brazil is the largest country in Latin America and the Caribbean, with one of the world's largest economies. Last year, Brazil's economy grew over 5 percent and attracted almost \$35 billion in new foreign investment. Mexico grew at 5 percent last year. Chile, while its economy is relatively small, also grew 5 percent, but it has reduced poverty most rapidly. When democracy was restored in Chile in 1990, 47 percent of Chilean citizens lived below the poverty line. In 2006, the poverty rate in Chile dropped to a bit over 13 percent. That is extraordinary. It's rapid, and it is needed throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Brazil, Mexico, and Chile obviously are very different one from the other. They have their own characteristics, and the reasons they have done so well is that they share sustained, consistent social and economic policy. Since 1990 Chile has had four different presidents. Since 1992 Brazil has had two different presidents with very different parties in charge. Since 1995 Mexico has had three different presidents and two very different parties running the government.

In trade terms, Brazil, Mexico, and Chile are on the

*Latin America and the Caribbean have been enjoying sustained economic growth, accompanied by the increased strengthening and solidification of their democratic institutions.*

– CHARLES SHAPIRO

brink of having over 50 percent of their population in the middle class. When I talk about them to U.S. audiences, I say to them that we need to compare them to Spain, Italy, and Greece in the late 1960s and early 1970s when they were on the brink of making enormous leaps both in

their economies and in their democratic development.

I am convinced that Peru, Colombia, and Panama are going to be able to replicate what Brazil, Mexico, and Chile have done. Last year Peru grew 7.8 percent, Colombia 7.2 percent, and Panama at an extraordinary 9 percent.

Now clearly the United States can't take credit for what's happened in these three countries, although we are part of it. And clearly the United States can't solve the problems of each country. Only the citizens of your country will solve the problems of your country. But we can help. The European Union can help. That's what trade agreements are about.



# ¡VIVA LA INTEGRACIÓN!

By Jorge Fernando Quiroga  
President of Bolivia, 2001-2002

It's really a joy to be on a panel with Felipe González, the former Prime Minister of Spain. I met him when he was a minister of government, and I said then that when I grew up I wanted to be like Felipe González. I have not been able to attain that, but I am really happy to sit next to him.



I celebrate this meeting, this rich diversity of combination of nations and ages, cultures, academic leaders, social leaders, current and former politicians. I believe there has never been such a rich gathering as this hemispheric meeting sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation. I also celebrate on this first day of May, as Ambassador Shapiro said, "Long live evolution!" I would like to add: long live the integration of our countries and people so we can work together.

People from our countries should not lose their citizenship when they flee to the US or Europe in order to improve their economic situation. We are all human beings. Civil rights and integration don't have borders. If the Republican Party's discussion on immigration continues for a few more months, the wall between the United States and Mexico will become 40 meters high.

People ask me who I want to see win the US election. I'm looking for a president who can take care of immigration. But immigration is not just an issue involving the Caribbeans and Latin Americans in the United States. It involves how we treat the Bolivians in Argentina and how we treat the Nicaraguans in Costa Rica, the Paraguayans in Spain. Why don't we practice what we preach? We ask Spain and the United States to deal well with immigrants, but we are not willing to do it in our own countries.

I think the economic potential of remittances—workers sending money from the United States to Latin America—is huge. It has enormous potential for the economic development of our countries, and it should be part of the agenda for integration. I'm going to fight against drug trafficking, I'm going to work for commercial

agreements. This is an initiative for the Americas, and maybe in this process we will ask Felipe González for help. The Europeans asked him to come up with a new plan for the economic integration of Europe, so why don't we ask him to come to help us?

In conclusion, there are some threats and some great opportunities. We need to create an agenda for the hemisphere. I believe that this agenda should be based on shared values. We have beautiful Andean mountains, and when we climb those mountains and we see the bright sunlight—like the economy—if it is clear, then we feel great. The most important things we need as we go off the summit are agreements. This is why we need to develop an integration agenda.

Don't use the poor to reach power. We should change the social conditions without hatred or revenge. We should integrate so that our countries will improve and develop. We will protect our freedoms. Don't make a whole bunch of laws with an excessive amount of regulations that choke the spirit. We should have openness, religious dialogue, religious integration, economic integration, and political integration. Even in our own countries, we don't talk much about such things today.

President Sanguinetti said yesterday that the spirit moves mountains. I am happy if the spirit and shared values contribute toward the climbing of this mountain. Thank you so much.



Animated discussions took place throughout the conference.

# THE ART OF GOVERNING THE PUBLIC SPACE

By Felipe González  
Prime Minister of Spain, 1982-1996



**P**olitics is the art of governing the public space that we share—whether it is the city, the nation, or the region. Leaders who gain the majority of the votes have to govern the plurality of ideas. People from Latin America and the Caribbean are capable of establishing all kinds of political parties, even if all its members can fit inside just

one taxicab. But we need to govern for those who voted for us as well as those who didn't. To polarize the country, making team A fight against team B, is to betray moral leadership.

People's sense of identity has become more diverse. For example, we say that the identity of the European Union is Judeo-Christian, but we don't know how to govern the 80 million Muslims who live in Europe and the few Jews still in Europe after the Second World War.

I was charged by my country to carry out an impossible mission during the war in Yugoslavia. I had lived half my life in a dictatorship and half in a democracy, and I know that you don't impose democracy with tanks and guns. My friends who were born in countries with many generations of democracy wanted Milosevic to respect minorities, but how can he take care of minorities when he was not even willing to respect the election results of the majority?

Most people in Yugoslavia are southern Slavs. Some identify themselves as Orthodox Christians, others as Catholics, and still others as Muslims. But when the war started, each group became stuck and destroyed themselves by excluding others. It was said that if you are not Catholic, you have no right to be a Croatian; if you are not Orthodox you have no right to call yourself a Serb; and if you are not Muslim, you have no right to be Bosnian.

Societies are becoming increasingly pluralistic in people's sense of identity and belonging—even when they are of the same religion and ethnic group, and speak the same language. We need to govern that diversity of belonging. The art of governing is getting people not to kill each other, to have a minimum of respect for each other. Beside this, leaders need a project with which all the diverse people can identify and take a shared interest. There can be a plurality of ideas, but all should identify with a common project.

One might think that the higher the cultural level of the people, the greater the likelihood of adhering to peace and democracy. The highest level of cultural, scientific, technological, musical, and artistic development was in Germany, which caused two world wars in the twentieth century.

Education for peace is not only about the right to vote. The right to vote is a necessary component of democracy but not a sufficient one. It legitimizes a leader who is elected by votes, and not by boots. Democracy only guarantees that if leaders do badly the people can throw them out. It guarantees good government only in the long run. We need to constantly improve and do things for the long range good.

*Societies are becoming increasingly pluralistic. Leaders need a project with which all the diverse people can identify and take a shared interest. There can be a plurality of ideas, but all should identify with a common project.*

— FELIPE GONZÁLEZ

# THE 21ST CENTURY AND PEACE

By Rev. Sun Myung Moon  
Founder, Universal Peace Federation



God chose and raised up the United States of America in accordance with His providential plan, and trained the American people through Christianity. Civilization on the North American continent, rooted in faith, has bequeathed to the world the principles of freedom of religion and respect for equal human rights. On

America's shoulders rests the responsibility to bring harmony and oneness among the world's 6.5 billion people and to expedite the creation of a peaceful, ideal world.

The present time marks an important milestone in the development of civilization. We stand at a critical junction of human history where we can complete the providence of building God's fatherland and peace kingdom as the culmination of human history.

We must work quickly to complete the reform of the United Nations and also to fulfill the mission of the Universal Peace Federation as the "Abel" or Peace UN, which was launched in September 23, 2007. In this way, we will expand God's ideal of creation into politics, economy, culture, and education, all under the realm of God's heart and love.

No nation can be an exception from this. All the walls and barriers that divide the human family are to break down before the waves of heavenly fortune coming to earth in this era. As you become the owners and inheritors of the victorious foundation brought by the True Parents of heaven and earth, you will build God's fatherland with your own hands!

Whoever practices true love will live with God, share His

happiness, and enjoy the right to participate as an equal in His work. A life lived for the sake of others is the absolute precondition for entering the kingdom of heaven. It is the new way of life, modeled on a family whose members all live peacefully centering on God. It is your responsibility as Ambassadors for Peace to seek after and establish families of the kingdom of God.

Please do not forget that the democracy as we enjoy it today is essentially an ideology of brotherhood. In that sense, democracy itself is serving a transitional role, and we should quickly take a revolutionary leap forward into a civilization of God's heart and love, the age of the true parents and the true families.

I sincerely wish and pray that you will engrave on your hearts these words I have conveyed to you and use them in educating your children, other young people, and all the citizens of your nations.

May God's blessings be with your families, your nations, the Pacific Rim region, and the "Peace UN"!

*Civilization on the North American continent, rooted in faith, has bequeathed to the world the principles of freedom of religion and respect for equal human rights.*

— SUN MYUNG MOON



A luncheon session of the Americas Summit at the Bush Library in College Station, Texas

# ONE FAMILY UNDER GOD: A VISION FOR THE AMERICAS

By Eric P. Olsen

*By engaging Latin American leaders with a vision of collaborative partnership, the entire hemisphere of the Americas can move toward integration, cooperation, development, and peace.*

YFWP executive vice president David Caprara (center left), Indon Kang (center), and Dr. Hyun Jin Moon (center right), with young Belize leaders at a Mayan ruin.

Three thousand years of history are written in stone amid the remote rain forests of western Belize. For Dr. Hyun Jin Moon and an international team hosting a series of leadership summits in six Central and South American nations, the ancient pyramids and complex hieroglyphics left by the Mayan civilization offered a compelling testimony to the formidable indigenous capacity of its people. Co-chairman of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and president of the Youth Federation for World Peace (YFWP), Dr. Moon traveled with leaders of these organizations to Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, and Brazil.

UPF Secretary General Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, Regional Chair Dr. Jung Soon Cho, and Regional Secretary General Mr. Alejandro de Souza were part of the delegation that met with legislative leaders, heads of state, and activists from civil society, as well as a cross-section of youth leaders, to promote a "Vision for the Americas."

"I believe that in this world where there is a real potential for religious war the message that was sown 2,000 years ago of 'one family under God' now needs to be brought to the world stage," Dr. Moon declared. "And it can happen centered upon this hemisphere that has been appointed and anointed by God to carry on that mission."

Latin America and the Caribbean have astonishing diversity, abundant resources, and cultural vibrancy.

Yet endemic problems, many the legacy of colonial dependency and long-standing political instability, undermine the region's full integration into the global economy. Violent crime and public security are key issues for policy makers and citizens, while widespread poverty and economic stagnation fuel political corruption and cynicism. Young leaders will play a key role in moving from a culture of dependency to one of public service, collaboration, and opportunity.

The division between North and South has also undermined development in Latin America, and Dr. Moon called for a more broadly defined "American" culture of peace and service to the less fortunate.

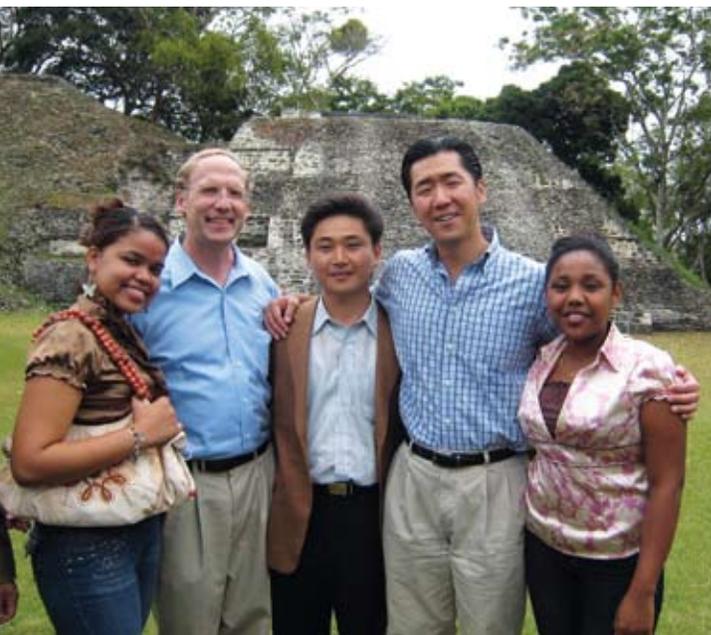
## BELIZE

On April 13, the group arrived in Belize, a small Central American nation of just 300,000 people. Its educational levels and economic development are high, but social problems including family breakdown, AIDS, and drug abuse persist.

"It is not a nation's size but rather its vision and values that determine its future and fate," Dr. Moon told an assembly of Belize leaders. "The United States became a global leader because its core values were centered on the sovereignty of God."

Some 2,000 Belize Ambassadors for Peace, professionals from all sectors of society, have stepped forward to provide needed social services as well as education in principles of peace and nonviolence.

"One of our key objectives is the elevation of the role of young leaders in empowering a new era of cooperation and development in the Americas," says YFWP executive vice president David Caprara, who traveled with the delegation. "In each nation we saw the power of effective youth service and character education initiatives."





**Dr. Hyun Jin Moon explains about the Global Peace Festival to Costa Rica Vice President Laura Chinchilla**

## COSTA RICA

In neighboring Costa Rica, aspirations for peace run deep. A stable and prosperous democracy, Costa Rica was the first country in the world to constitutionally abolish its army. Former President Rodrigo Carazo was instrumental in founding the University for Peace, a UN-mandated university headquartered in Costa Rica. His successor, President Oscar Arias, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for his efforts to foster regional peace in neighboring Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador during the warfare of the 1980s.

With a \$1.9-billion-a-year tourism industry, Costa Rica is the most visited nation in Central America and a pioneer in ecotourism. Regrettably, the rapid growth of tourism also has led to a burgeoning sex tourism trade, including the exploitation of children.

Dr. Moon met with former President Carazo, a UPF Ambassador for Peace, and his wife, and with Vice President Laura Chinchilla Miranda, who was especially responsive to discussions about character education, inter-religious reconciliation, and promoting North-South integration. Peace education is ongoing through *Tele-paz*, whose daily television broadcasts feature Ambassadors for Peace. The International Leadership Conference drew 250 participants from all over the Central American country of four million people.

## PANAMA

From Costa Rica, the tour continued to Panama, the geographical bridge between the North and South American continents. Control of the Panama Canal Zone, transferred from the US in 1999, has spurred economic growth in the nation of three million. Today Panama is a strategic transportation link and financial hub. On the other hand, some 40 percent of the population is mired in poverty and 80 percent of children are born to single mothers.

The disintegration of the family has engendered serious drug-abuse and social problems. Many government and civic leaders are interested in char-

acter education that provides a clear explanation of the importance of self-discipline, respect for one's body, and the sacred character of marriage and family life as the building blocks of a peaceful society.

"Panama should concentrate on education," Dr. Moon told an assembly of Panamanian senators, mayors, civil society leaders, and Ambassadors for Peace. "Education of the mind is not enough. It is important to educate the heart. The family is the first line of defense against the destruction of society. As a father of eight children, if I do not live by family principles, what will happen to my family and children? It's time to strengthen the family as the foundation of society."



**Tour party meets with H.E. Tabaré Vázquez, President of Uruguay (2nd from right).**

## The American Dream

The tragic reality as the Europeans came onto South America was that they ignored the richness of the culture and were blinded by greed. The history of North America was very different. The settlements of Europeans that flourished were those settlements that were seeking to find and build a nation under God. They came because of religion, not because of gold.

To me the American dream was never merely a political dream. It was not an economic dream. The American dream was a dream of building one nation under God. The first document that marked the birth of that nation, the Declaration of Independence, recognized the sovereignty of God as the basis upon which rights are derived, and the basis on which the nation would be established.

*Excerpt from speech given in Lima, Peru*



**Above: Luncheon meeting with school teachers in San Ignacio, Belize**

**Right: A welcome proclamation from the mayor of Lima, Peru**



He urged Panamanian leaders to realize that “if a nation has abundant resources but still experiences poverty and corruption, it is because of problems with the leadership. If leaders make one family under God their platform, a completely new nation can emerge.” He challenged leaders to open the way for a new world beyond the walls of religion, race, and culture. “With this type of vision, your nation can influence your neighbors, your region, and your entire continent.”

One significant youth leader, Fabio Perez, presi-

dent of Panama’s Martial Arts Association which numbers 20,000 students, teaches the principles of peace to martial arts students. Realizing that education in family values is critical to the country’s future, Mr. Perez agreed to take on the national leadership of Panama’s Youth Federation for World Peace.

## PERU

In recent years, UPF and YFWP in Peru have provided character education training to administrators, teachers, and students at universities, colleges, high schools, and technical and vocational schools in this country of 29 million people. Ambassadors for Peace, community-based teachers, and, increasingly, professional teachers have educated thousands of students. Requests for the character education curriculum continue to grow, as the pervasive influence of popular culture makes the need for standards of conduct all the more keenly felt. Significantly, some one hundred Family Centers have been set up throughout the capital city of Lima as well as in five provincial cities. These centers help to provide education and food for many people in impoverished communities.

From the grassroots to the highest levels in government, the vision of a global family under God has taken root in this Andes mountain country in western South America, as forward-looking young leaders assess the consequences of a secular, individualistic ethos on Peruvian society. Congresswoman Margarita Sucari observed in a reception, “As Ambassadors for Peace, as children of God, we feel compelled to bring people together [around this shared vision] as we try to be the conscience of the Congress.”

In his keynote address on April 20 to the International Leadership Conference in Lima, Dr. Moon applauded the creative energy that has launched so many successful initiatives.

## URUGUAY

The delegation received a warm reception from Uruguay’s physician President H.E. Tabaré Vázquez, a cancer specialist whose ethic of service includes taking off one day a week to treat patients in his office at the hospital. In meetings with leaders of government, business, academia, and the clergy in this country of 3 million people, Dr. Moon found common ground in discussing the responsibility of all to reach out in good faith across cultural and national divides.

Later in a meeting with former Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti, Dr. Moon noted that government was not an end in itself but served a



**At the statue for the Uruguayan patriot José Gervasio Artigas, who called for a “united states” of southern American nations**

higher purpose. “I believe great nations need to be built on a recognition of God,” he said. “In the beginning, Nazi Germany was democratic and capitalist, but it created its own rules and definitions of values. The value system that leads to true human rights can come only with the inclusion of God. Absolute and immutable principles are our guiding light.”

Paraguayan soccer legend José Chilavert was in Montevideo and had heard about the tour and was anxious to meet Dr. Moon and “shake his hand.” Voted World’s Best Goalkeeper in 1995, 1997, and 1998 by IFFHS, the international football ranking organization that works alongside FIFA, the now-retired soccer great is still a favorite with fans who called out his popular name, “Chila! Chila!” as he and Dr. Moon walked to a local coffee shop.

## **BRAZIL**

The tour concluded in Brazil, the emerging, resource-rich power with a landmass comprising nearly half of the South American continent. With 157 million people, Brazil is the fifth most-populous country of the world. A Portuguese-speaking country, Brazil is a land of contrasts, the home of the massive, ecologically critical Amazon basin and exploding cities with unmanageable slums. Grinding poverty, breakneck development, and seemingly limitless resources present challenges and unprecedented opportunities.

“Brazil can move this region toward peace and

co-prosperity,” Dr. Moon told a gathering of political and religious leaders in Brazil’s Chamber of Deputies. “The crisis of values is not fundamentally a problem that can be solved through the political process,” he said. “Values are at the root of culture as well as political institutions, and recognizing our common bonds as one human family is the precondition for realizing lasting peace.”

“This is the time in which we need to dream big,” Dr. Moon told leaders in all the countries he visited. “We need to aspire for the greatest of things. Just like that nation to the North that was anointed by God and has risen to the highest peak of all nations in the world, so too, can Central and South America rise if they become the owners of the dream of building not one nation under God, but one family under God, rooted in the eternal universal principle that can only come from God.”

“If this region has been held back in development, it is not for want of an abundance of resources, nor for any lack in the capacity of its people,” Dr. Moon added. “Through this tour, I am convinced that in terms of resources and human capital, there is nothing lacking here. But if I may be so bold to suggest, it needs the great vision and principles and values that can uplift the people to go beyond individual self-interest, beyond the interest of one’s family, beyond even interests of one’s nation. We must aspire for the greatness of the whole region, the greatness of the Americas, reviving the spirit and dream of leading the whole world to peace.”

*Eric P. Olsen is communications coordinator for the Youth Federation for World Peace. For information about its projects, see [www.youthfederation.org](http://www.youthfederation.org).*

**Conference in the Chamber of Deputies in Brasilia**



# PEACE MURAL IN LEBANON: A SHARED VISION OF PEACE

By Thomas Schellen, UPF-Lebanon

*The biggest achievement of the young people in this project was that they used this chance of seeing that all of us have our essential features in common and differ merely in concepts. With that we could give the youth a hope for a better future, a future where all can live as one in peace.*

The small Eastern Mediterranean country of Lebanon recently was once again a news-maker. Spring time in this country entails many commemoration dates of frightful events such as the outbreak of civil war in April 1975, an invasion by the Israeli Defense Forces in March 1978, and the death of more than 100 civilians in a UN shelter in April 1996 through a direct hit by Israeli fire targeting positions of Hezbollah, the Shiite party of God, which has played a major role in armed confrontations in Lebanon since the 1980s.

In May 2008, it seemed as if a long-ticking time bomb of internal disagreement would ignite a new armed conflict. When the Lebanese cabinet decided to dismantle a communications network used by Hezbollah, an 18-month “war of minds” between government and opposition groups became violent overnight.

When many feared the worst—which would have been a new civil war with countless losers and no winners—the opposing factions consented to meet in the Qatari capital, Doha, for negotiations under the sponsorship of the Arab League and the Qatari government. The negotiations, with personal prodding by the emir of Qatar, succeeded where a number of Arab, European, US, and UN intermediation efforts had failed, and the Lebanese agreed on a new president and a new power-sharing formula.

The settlement reflected the realities of a nation seeking a new path and gave rise to new optimism that the country can have a chance at forging a more stable state of non-violent coexistence. It has been a long-held view that Arab peoples have to solve the challenges of politics and security of Arab countries. Although no peace advocate for the

**Retired member of the Lebanese parliament, Abdellatif Al-Zain, joins in the painting of the peace mural.**

Middle East will say that the situation in Lebanon has been fully solved, this 180-degree turnaround of the Lebanese situation signaled the possibility that the region’s peoples can master their challenges.

For Lebanese Ambassadors for Peace, whose network crosses all communal lines and barriers of ideology and politics, the experience of May 2008 reinforces the conviction that peace in the region is not an impossible vision.

Furthermore, the Peace Mural project the last weekend of April demonstrated the willingness of Lebanese youth to cooperate in mutually beneficial micro peace initiatives.

Stepping off the bus from Beirut, young volunteers arrived in the southern Lebanese community of Fawka Nabatieh greeted by a calm and cozy small-town feeling. Two Lebanese scouts groups comprising about 25 members, aged 15 to their early 20s, arrived to paint a Peace Mural together with local volunteers. In the process, young people from diverse communities expressed a shared vision of peace.

The trip from Beirut to Nabatieh passes coastal towns with views of lush fields and grazing cows, in stark contrast to still-fresh images of the flood of refugees fleeing the war zone in the recent past. Posters put up by Hezbollah maintain the memory of sacrifices claimed by the group and the victories it has announced. The 30th anniversary of the outbreak of conflict in 1975 was commemorated in Beirut with murals proclaiming “never again.” Intense political disputes feed sentiments of discord, pushing the country’s communities to hunker down in their respective strongholds.

The Upper Nabatieh peace mural opened a window of trust into the future. Participants coming from Sunni, Shiite, and Christian communities formed new perspectives on their Lebanese identity by working together. Hussein Shamseldin, a participant in the project, had no illusions. “I came here to support peace. It is not possible to have peace under the current conditions in the region—but I still work for peace,” he says.



The city council welcomed the Beirut group headed by scout leaders Maher Kalenderian and Mohammed Saad, Hiba Othman, a professor of mathematics and UPF Ambassador for Peace who is an experienced volunteer, and UPF representative Hermine Schellen.

Assad Ghandour, the head of the municipality, delivered a greeting, attended by several city council members, leading members of the business community, a retired Lebanese Army general, and the head of the Nabatieh school district, Ahmad Kallas.

Key local partners Hussein Ghandour, member of the Fawka city council and an Ambassador for Peace, and Zulfikar, chief of municipal security, invested a lot in preparing the project.

Bridging the distance between volunteers and municipal authorities promoted shared enthusiasm, explained Hermine Schellen. "Our simple purpose in coming here was to change these walls into bridges of peace through our combined effort. Many NGOs work independently. For us, it has proven ideal to collaborate closely with the municipality."

As the sun started heating the pavement, the volunteers erupted into creative action and paint flowers, figures, hearts, a model family, and peace slogans in various languages. Youth from two local scout organizations and curious teenagers from the village joined in. Tammam, a resident artist, gave advice. The enthusiasm for self-expression by youngsters reared in love for the resistance required some directions to stay within the topical frame of peace.

A senior politician visited the site. "You should paint peace murals in every village in this area," said Abdellatif Al-Zein, who served in the Lebanese Parliament as representative of this region. Lunch under the trees was followed by a discussion on civil virtues and ethical responsibilities.

The Armenian Hogenmen Scouts of Achrafieh had experience serving their own Armenian Catholic community in Beirut, said Maher Kalenderian, but "why limit ourselves to our small society? I want them to be more open to others. Coming to Nabatieh, where our young people have only heard of violence



One part of the Peace Mural

before, is so different."

Most of the Beirut scouts had never before visited Nabatieh; their only concepts of the area had come from media reports associating this part of Lebanon with violence and danger.

Mohammed Saad's group was apprehensive about venturing into this region. The misconceptions about each other were dissolving quickly, he confirmed. "We could feel that we are the same people, all Lebanese, and the scout leaders from Nabatieh told me that they want to get together again. Many of us from Beirut want to come back soon."

"There are so many fears that limit people. It is a relatively simple thing to do such a project once you have put your heart to it, but it is not easy to overcome fears about others," added Hermine Schellen. "The biggest achievement of the young people in this project was that they used this chance of seeing that all of us have our essential features in common and differ merely in concepts. With that we could give the youth a hope for a better future, a future where all can live as one in peace."

Three Arabic-language daily newspapers and one Armenian-Lebanese paper published positive reviews and printed pictures of the peace mural. As a project, the mural was affordable and, thanks to the broad participation of the municipality and local community, very sustainable.

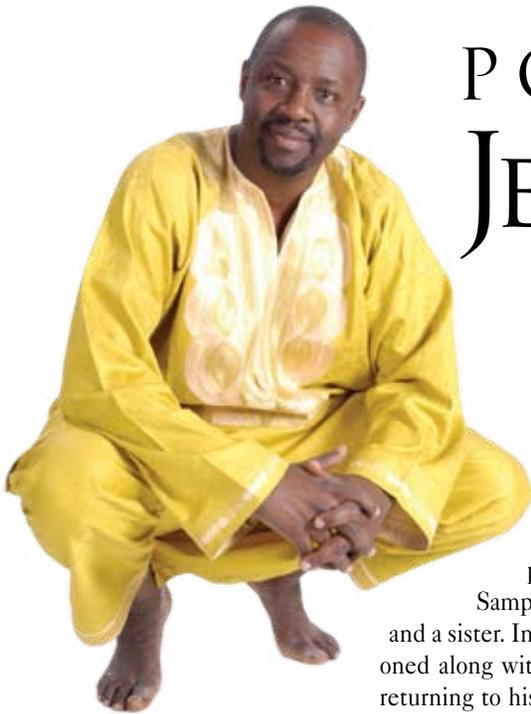


Scout groups gather for a group photo before returning to Beirut.

# PORTRAIT OF PEACE: JEAN PAUL SAMPUTU

## AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE

By Monica Lafon



*I can change things. I can live without anger. I can forget I suffered. I can forgive the ones who killed my parents... I can teach others peace!*

Jean Paul Samputu is one of only two members of his family to survive the atrocities that took place in his homeland of Rwanda.

Samputu lost his parents, three brothers and a sister. In October of 1990 he had been imprisoned along with other Tutsis for six months. Upon returning to his village he was warned by his father to leave because as a well-known musician his life would be in danger in the outbreak of violence that would only be a matter of time.

It took almost two days, but he managed to cross the border to Burundi. He paid people along the way to help him, traveling by night and hiding in the forest during the day. To confront his fear, he began drinking, a habit that haunted him for many years to come.

After moving to Uganda, he listened to the messages of hatred spread over the radio. He was horrified by the reports emerging in April 1994 of one million people murdered over a period of 90 days. When he returned home in July, one month after the genocide ended, he found that only one sister had survived.

It was difficult to get any information as to who exactly was responsible and how they could commit such atrocities. Samputu learned that his mother was not at home when they killed his father, but when she found out, she ran back home screaming, “Kill me! Kill me!”... and they did.

The news of his sister’s death was most disturbing, as Samputu was told she was killed over a period of three days. “Imagine someone who kills you slowly,” he says. “They start to cut your arm, then your nose... That’s how they killed my sister. How can a human do such things?” His questions included “How can people you grew up with, your own neighbors, kill your family?” And “why?”

A year passed, and in 1995 Samputu married Henriette, and they began a life together, but his anger continued to destroy him. He could not get any answers that could help him overcome the past, and he found himself in a state of self-destruction—taking drugs, alcohol and even attempting suicide.

### THE JOURNEY OF HEALING

Eventually he asked someone, “Where can I go to have the word of God every day, every night, and not go back home and forget it?” They told him to go to the Mountain of Prayer in Uganda. There he sat in God’s presence for twelve hours every day and even learned how to fast. He became aware of the power of God and realized “I can change things. I can live without anger. I can forget I suffered. I can forgive the ones who killed my parents... I can teach others peace!”

After three months he recognized that he had been set free. “I was totally healed the same day God helped me to forgive,” he remembers. God told him, “You are healed now, you are free now. Go and teach the children. Rwandans need healing.”

To forgive the people who killed his family and to spread his message he founded the Mizero Children of Rwanda, a group of 100 young orphans spreading hope through traditional Rwandan music and dance.

Samputu says many people deceive themselves when they say they forgive each other. He explains, “Forgiveness is not between you and the other. It’s between you and God.”

To illustrate his point, he opens the Bible, and from underlined and marked pages, he reads Matthew 5:44: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righ-

teous and the unrighteous.” Continuing on he reads from Matthew 6:14: “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

## MEETING THE KILLERS

That is what pushed him to go to the Gacaca Tribunals in Rwanda in August of 2007. When he got there, he had not yet met his “enemies,” and yet at heart, he was already prepared to forgive.

He addressed the tribunal stating that God had spoken to him and told him to forgive, but he didn’t know if the people who killed his family were present that day. He met two of them, Eugene Nyirimana and Vincent Ntakirutimana, who had grown up with him as friends and neighbors. They went to share a meal and talk.

Nyirimana told where they buried his father, where he was killed with the others, and even who took his clothes and wore them. He also told that when his father asked the person that was going to kill him: “Look, I am 86, why kill me?” the person replied: “Because you are Tutsi.”

Ntakirutimana was hesitant at first to believe he had been forgiven. Eventually, it led to reconciliation with his wife, who after learning that Samputu had forgiven him, decided to forgive her husband. She had separated from him after learning he had secretly taken part in the killing during the genocide. Forgiveness allowed their family to reunite, which has helped him heal as well.

Samputu says he also forgives the Belgians, the colonizers who caused divisions between the Hutus, Tutsis, and even the Twa. He accepts the apologies that Belgium has given to Rwandans. He concludes, “Forgiveness is the most powerful *unpopular* weapon against terrorism and atrocity.”



**Jean Paul Samputu with the two men he forgave: Vincent Ntakirutimana (left) and Eugene Nyirimana (right)**

Looking up from where he sits in the living room of his home in Montreal, Canada, he points to the top corner of the wall, where his most recent award hangs: “Ambassador for Peace,” recognition from the Universal Peace Federation, given to him in 2007. When asked why it is placed so high up, he replies that it is an offering to God, to remind himself that whatever he accomplished has been because God has guided him. “Some things you do because it is the right thing to do,” he says. “You can’t get awarded for that.”

*For more information see websites: [www.samputu.com](http://www.samputu.com) and [www.mizerochildren.org](http://www.mizerochildren.org). Monica Lafon is a student of journalism and political science at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, and a member of In Their Shoes, a non-profit organization based in Montreal.*

*Forgiveness is the most powerful unpopular weapon against terrorism and atrocity.*



**The Mizero Children of Rwanda**

*UPF Today welcomes features about Ambassadors for Peace. Send essays and photos to [editor@upf.org](mailto:editor@upf.org)*

# THE PROBLEM WITH WAR

By Marty Miller

The problem with war, particularly in Vietnam, was that weapons such as napalm had no soul. If you happened to be below it you were instantly incinerated. I arrived at 1:00 am, in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) after a flight haunted by images of movies and news reports from the 1970s. I was planning to stay ten days but remained a full month.

The roots of the journey started at Ambassadors for Peace dinner in New Jersey, the United States, some months earlier. For most of my life, I've been a salesman and learned to quickly read situations, and what I saw there was intriguing. I have been to many functions that claimed to be diverse but ended in segregated groups. In this hall of 700 people, most tables were multi-ethnic. A rabbi sat at table with an imam. Of the ten people at my table, eight were

of different races than me. As the event progressed, a strange experience of unity filled the room and marinated over us, dissolving our distinctions.

Previously, my closest experience to this feeling was working in Orlando, Florida, and going to Disney World to mingle

and get high on the collective energy of happy people.

At the end of the evening about 100 people were appointed Ambassadors for Peace. I was envious. I wanted to become a member of this club, not for the certificate but to be part of something I experienced as real and meaningful. My wish came true about two months later when at another event, my name was called and I was appointed as an Ambassador for Peace. In sales, if you succeed you receive many awards, but this was different. It was acknowledging potential. Patting me on the back, my friend didn't say "Good job!" but "What are you going to do now?"

I saw this not as an award but a challenge. As I walked into the airport for the flight that would take me to that distant place called Vietnam, I realized that I could think of myself as an ordinary American revisiting a former enemy nation or as an Ambassador for Peace, following the five peace principles: God, spirituality, family, service, and unity.

When my luggage didn't show up, the adventure began. Apparitions of former negative experiences with lost luggage came to mind, but a baggage handler one third my size hopped across the carousels to offer his help to several empty-handed passengers. He grabbed our baggage claims tickets, wrote the numbers on his palm, and examined

the remaining bags. Disappointed, he brought us to the claim counter. A friendly woman took our numbers and invited us to sit down. No forms were required, just instant action. Five minutes later she reported the bags



**Far Left: A thumb sculpture in the main park in Ho Chi Minh City.**

**Near Left: A smile accompanied by a raised thumb.**



Life on the street in Ho Chi Minh City

were still in Chicago and gave us her cell phone number to call in the morning. These two prompt, helpful responses were not the exception; they were the norm. Was this the new Vietnam?

Over the next month there were hundreds of small incidents, from a soda vendor running after us to give us a straw or a vendor in the marketplace paying for our lunch (her daughter is now an exchange student in America and I'm taking her to see the UN next week). Though I spoke minimal Vietnamese, merchants I did business with would grab my bags whenever I reappeared, and stuff them under their counters to lighten my load.

I had memorable experiences with many families. On my third visit to one home, the 83-year-old patriarch immediately disappeared and returned five minutes later with a diet Coke for me. Seeing the joy he radiated while watching me drink it gave me a deeper understanding of the concept of service.

Vietnam has 4,000 years of history, and its culture of humane treatment of outsiders is legendary. In the year 1400, the Chinese invaded Vietnam and were soundly defeated. Instead of killing or enslaving the prisoners of war, however, the Vietnamese emperor apologized and gave them horses and ships to return home.

As I traveled through the Mekong Delta by boat, passing the ancient city of Hue and the shore near Hoi An, the day-to-day struggle for survival was painfully obvious. Everything from toiling in rice fields to rebuilding a motorbike requires long hours of hard work. But there is a contagious spirit of strong families, hard work, faith, and a strong will to succeed. Their motto is "We are a country, not a war."

For four weeks I was transformed by simple acts of kindness, rendered unconsciously, that often brought me to tears. I thought I had something to offer them, but the quality of undeserved love this country shared with me in June 2007 is etched in my soul and will cast a long shadow for the rest of my life.

Upon returning to America I was inspired to do more as an Ambassador for Peace. Secretly, I wanted to share this peace and love with others. Well, be careful what you wish for. Today I am Director of the Office of Membership at the Universal Peace Federation and helping design programs for the Ambassadors for Peace. When you open your heart, the world does the same.

*PS: If you want to travel to Vietnam on a peace mission, email me at [mmiller@upf.org](mailto:mmiller@upf.org).*

These two boys' energy, enthusiasm, and companionship represent the future of the Vietnamese people.

*My goal was to make every moment enjoyable for others and myself—even when drenched by the perpetual humidity or torrential downpours. I thought of British playwright George Bernard Shaw's words:*

*"This is the true joy of life, being used for a purpose recognized as a mighty one, being a force of nature instead of feverous selfish clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can."*



# GLOBAL PEACE FESTIVAL RUSSIA – A FOCUS ON FAMILY VALUES

*By Dr. Vladimir Petrovsky, President,  
Global Peace Festival-Russia*

Within the framework of the Global Peace Festival, Russian Ambassadors for Peace decided to conduct in Moscow and other cities and regions of Russia a series of public events during 2008 under the motto “Peace in Heart - Love in the Family – Peace on Earth.” Our overall goal is to build a sustainable civil coalition that is able to provide national leadership to promote patriotic and family values, living for the sake of others, civic accord, peace and reconciliation, inter-ethnic and inter-religious cooperation, and dialogue among cultures and civilizations, through arts and culture, sports, service, and education.

Symbolically, the Russian government proclaimed 2008 as the Year of Family. So our goals and objectives were to concentrate public attention on the ideals of living for the sake of others, true family, peace and reconciliation in society, with a final goal to set up a sustainable and effective civil coalition. We need this in order to facilitate dialogue between civil society and the state bodies within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals and to involve state bodies in public peace efforts, resulting in efficient mechanisms of social partnership. The

essential purpose of such a coalition is to consolidate the isolated peace and service efforts for the sake of joint positive development, and to highlight the Global Peace Festival and the Universal Peace Federation/Ambassadors for Peace activities in Russia in 2008 and beyond.

Keeping this in mind, we started campaigning to develop a broad civil coalition branded “Global Peace Festival.” To consolidate public effort in support of the Year of the Family in Russia, we are facilitating a public discussion on important human development issues. These activities were linked to the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, in order to highlight the Constitutional rights of women, children, and family. We also advocate humanitarian and service activities to benefit families with several children, orphans, poor people, and senior citizens.

Our academic and educational activities include conferences, symposiums, and round table discussions on public diplomacy, human development, peace and human security. We held lively debates on issues of religious education in the Russian schools, actions in support of the Russian language and Russian culture, promotion of independent publishers of educational literature, and other timely issues of interest to Russian citizens.

Our international GPF activities aim at sustaining inter-ethnic, inter-cultural and inter-religious dialogue in order to promote tolerance and transparency. To celebrate the 60th jubilee of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we will present the draft UNESCO Convention on Peace Education and offer activities to highlight the UN International Decade of Culture of Peace for Children of the Planet.

But people are generally more attracted by cultural programs, arts, and entertainment than by abstract debates. So we are also planning folklore exhibitions, competitions, and shows in support of Russia’s indigenous people and traditional culture,

**Opening a folklore museum  
in a Moscow school**



and also youth activities, such as get-togethers and rock concerts to support patriotic education and volunteer service. Our sports cluster includes marathons, martial arts, and soccer activities.

We are scheduling our festival events to be conducted throughout the whole year. We launched the Festival on March 1, with the International “Moscow Super Family” competition. As a finale, a major ceremony, coinciding with the official wrap-up of the Year of the Family in Russia and representing all festival activities in Moscow and other cities and regions of Russia, will conclude our series of GPF events in December 2008 or January 2009.

We think that to arrange for the GPF-2008 to involve a broad civil society coalition is more important than to do it by ourselves. Thus, our GPF participants and stakeholders include government and non-governmental organizations, public commercial and non-commercial organizations, institutions, movements, and individuals representing various strata of civil society, academia, culture and arts, media, and sports, as well as different religions and denominations.

It is important that the Russian National Peace Council be considered an initiator and one of the key participants but not the coordinator and organizer of the Festival. We are encouraging Ambassadors for Peace to volunteer and coordinate core activities of the Festival. The Festival Board, serving as the steering committee, is composed of eight to ten people; it represents key stakeholders and core activities, as well as prominent public figures who are able to campaign effectively for the Global Peace Festival.

Public organizations and individuals have expressed interested in the GPF-2008 activities in



**A Global Peace Festival poster attracts attention in the central Russian city of Kaluga.**

Moscow. Other cities and regions of Russia approved our Global Peace Festival 2008 and have agreed to carry out their own 2008 activities under the aegis of the Global Peace Festival. They will be using the Global Peace Festival motto and logo, furthering the ideal and message of working together for peace across the vast expanse of Russia, extending our ability to reach out to others.

Our partners will enjoy complete organizational independence within the framework of the Festival. They will coordinate their planning, raise financial resources, and promote their Festival activities in accordance with the broad coalition/network principles.

We expect the idea and vision of the Festival to be widely promoted through our partners’ media contacts, with the Festival Board serving in a consultative and advisory capacity. We envision the Global Peace Festival in Russia as an ongoing public campaign rather than a single event. This will help us to further promote the UPF ideals and core principles in Russia and throughout Eurasia.



**Winners of the Moscow “Super Family Competition”**

## Global Peace Festivals 2008

- Asunción, Paraguay – July 2-5
- Washington, DC, USA – August 7-10
- Nairobi, Kenya – August 29-31
- Kinshasa, DR Congo – August 29-31
- Ulanbataar, Mongolia – September 6-9
- Ottawa, Canada – October 2-5
- Malaysia – October 15-18
- Tokyo, Japan – November 13-15
- United Kingdom – November 22-23 (tentative)
- Lebanon – November 25-28 (tentative)
- Solomon Islands – November 26-29
- Manila, Philippines – December 10-12
- Jerusalem, Israel – December 10-17

*For more information visit [www.globalpeacefestival.org](http://www.globalpeacefestival.org).*

# PROMOTING PEACE THROUGH SPORTS

By John Gehring and Jason Sue

Sports can be a priceless gift to humanity, offering a path to emotional fulfillment, health, fitness, and happiness. In each community, people from all parts of society are drawn together to play on local teams. On certain occasions, whole communities will stop all business, drop all barriers, forget grudges, and join in celebrating their favorite team's victory. For those of us who yearn for peace and norms of good sportsmanship, channeling the power and youthful dynamic within sports is critical. The United Nations recognized this potential and declared 2006 as the "Year of Sports and Physical Education."

Sports is a priority for the Universal Peace Federation as it provides youth around the world with opportunities to play sports, experience the norms of sportsmanship, and develop the bonds so essential for trust and friendship. Its Interreligious Peace Sports Festival is a unique model of sports, culture, and religious celebration. In 2007, the UPF worked in Guatemala with the Ministry of Peace to promote cross-cultural cooperation and sportsmanship in schools across the nation and in Israel to offer a Celebration of Life sports program in Carmel that drew together students from each of Israel's diverse communities. The major sports affiliate of UPF is the Peace Dream Foundation, which is organizing a variety of effective athletic programs:

## PLAY FOOTBALL MAKE PEACE

Launched in over 40 nations by WANGO, Play Football Make Peace provides opportunities for underserved youth to play in football (soccer) competitions. In addition to skills training, participants receive education aimed at developing and

strengthening each player's character through the values that make for good sportsmanship in an exciting program called "The Way of the Champion." Participants include coaches, sports officials, and athletes. In Jordan, Estonia, and the Ukraine it has made a significant impact on how sports—football in particular—are presented to the youth of their country. This year's focus is on training coaches to strengthen the character-building and teamwork aspects of the sport.

## INTERRELIGIOUS PEACE SPORTS FESTIVAL

The Interreligious Peace Sports Festival (IPSF) draws young athletes from many nations and religious traditions into an environment where they can live together, play, and compete while experiencing friendship and cultural sharing. This unique sports program creates a model of interreligious cooperation at a time of widespread tensions and misunderstandings among people of different religions. There is vigorous competition in seven popular sports, complemented with other activities including morning reflection time and evening international cultural performances, all designed to create experiences of living together as a global family. For many participants, it is a turning point in their life.

## SPORTS FOR PEACE

A new project spearheaded by the Peace Dream Foundation, Sports for Peace is reaching out to youth in four target groups: underserved populations, new immigrants and refugees, people living in or near conflict areas, and indigenous peoples. The sports-manship education utilizes an experiential learning

The 2006 Peace Queen Cup competition in Korea





Peace Dream Basketball Camps in Sri Lanka, 2008

model. Initial programs took place in India and Sri Lanka. In the mountainous area of Wayanad, in India's southern Kerala state, tribal youth with few opportunities to play in tournaments participated in a Peace Dream Football Tournament and "Sports for a Better Life" seminar.

In Sri Lanka, a nation that has suffered nearly two decades of civil strife, Sports for Peace held a Peace Dream Basketball Camp for its national women's basketball team and the junior national women's basketball team. Players from various parts of the country worked together to improve their athletic skills, with many attending the "Sports for a Better Life" seminar led by Diesa Siedel, a former professional basketball player, and Sports for Peace director, John Gehring. Both the camps and seminar received support from the Sri Lanka Ministry of Sports and the Ministry of Education. The contents of the seminar were of special interest to the Minister of Peace, since his department is developing sports programs between the military and civilian population in conflict areas.

### PEACE KING CUP

An international competition among professional men's football clubs, the Peace King Cup has been held in Korea every two years since 2003. This event has grown in prestige, and the 2009 games will be hosted by Spain in Andalusia. This is a major step into one of the heartlands of professional football. Enthusiasts will be able to view the games on television from around the world.

Peace King Cup draws public attention to the needs and challenges of creating a culture of peace, and the proceeds are used to support worthy projects in many countries. The first and second place winners in the 2007 competition, the Olympique Lyonnais (France) and the Bolton Wanderers (Liverpool, UK), each donated \$50,000 for Peace Dream Foundation projects.

### PEACE QUEEN CUP

The Peace Queen Cup draws on top national teams in women's football. The 2008 tournament takes place in Suwon, Korea, from June 14 to 21. This is the second Peace Queen Cup event since its start in 2006. Many strong teams are participating in the event, including the U.S., Brazilian Canadian teams, which are ranked first, fourth, and ninth, respectively by FIFA. The other five teams are Argentina, Australia, Italy, Republic of Korea, and New Zealand.

Many Korean football fans are excited at the prospect of watching these teams play.

The competition is preceded by a fashion show and pop music concert. A Forum on Asian Women's Sports at Gyeong-gi University features participants from 13 Asian nations discussing the status of Asian women's sports, especially women's football, and prospects for further development.

### THE STAR CUP

The Star Cup offers well-known actors, journalists, and media celebrities an opportunity to play football competitively for a public purpose. Fans are responding to this Korean-based tournament, which is more widely watched than many FIFA matches. Audiences are eager to see their favorite 'stars' play. Proceeds help support football programs in conflict-torn nations such as Liberia.

The Peace Dream Foundation supports the "Nine Million Campaign" of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. This campaign ([www.ninemillion.org](http://www.ninemillion.org)) was created in 2006 in partnership with corporate sponsors Nike and Microsoft, with the noble goal of giving more than nine million children around the world better access to education, sports, and technology.

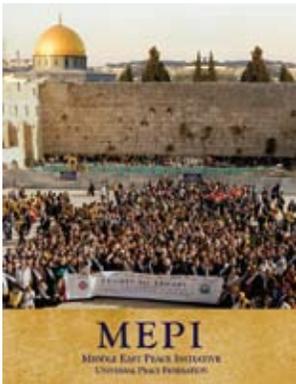
In short, the athletic initiatives are creating models for peace by building bridges across cultural differences through sports. They link the marketing of global sporting events to the everyday needs of youth struggling to find positive expression in life through sports. By promoting constructive and healthy lifestyles among the youth, the path to peace is broadened.

For information about participating in, supporting, hosting, or sponsoring activities contact John Gehring at Peace Dream Foundation, 481 8th Avenue, 30th floor, New York, NY 10001 USA. Telephone 1-212-239-6500 extension 228. Email: [john@sportsforpeace.org](mailto:john@sportsforpeace.org).

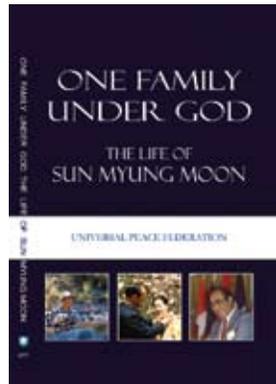
#### WEBSITES:

- Peacedream.net
- Peacecup.com
- Playsoccermakepeace.org
- Sportsforpeace.org

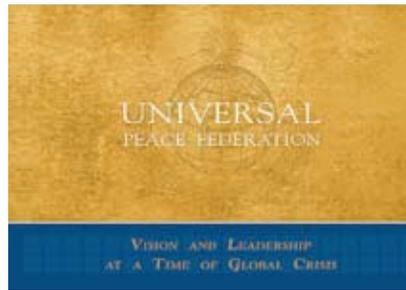
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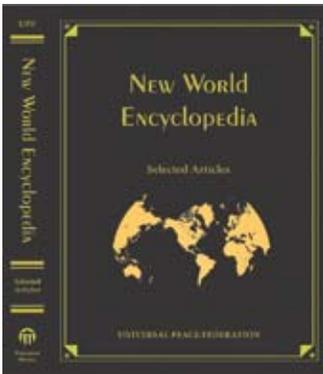
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*The present time marks an important milestone in the development of civilization. We stand at a critical junction of human history where we can complete the providence of building God's fatherland and peace kingdom.*  
— Dr. Sun Myung Moon

## UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

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