

Blessed are the Peacemakers -- An Interfaith Prayer Breakfast in Upper Austria

Maria Pammer and Hans Brunnbauer

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At the invitation of others, on December 7, we held an Inter-religious and Intercultural Prayer Breakfast.

The common topic was "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9. About forty people from different religions gathered in the Family Federation center in Linz, which since yesterday houses the exhibition "100 Years Rev. Moon -- His Contribution to World Peace."

After a welcome by Mrs. Pammer (UPF-Upper Austria) and a prayer by Mr. Kreck, the guests served themselves at the breakfast buffet. After everybody had taken some refreshments, with a song, Becky Moshammer got the attendants in the mood for the presentations of the topic.

Mr. Brunnbauer, responsible for community leadership of the Family Federation in Upper Austria, showed at the beginning of his presentation a video about Mr. and Mrs. Moon's peace-related work with the title, "Who is the Mother of Peace?" In his remarks he told the religious adherents not only about the many initiatives Father Moon and recently also Mother Moon have set worldwide for peace, but emphasized the inner aspects they both emphasized, especially the power of forgiveness which leads to real peace. He illustrated this powerfully with the comparison of somebody who was bitten by a poisonous snake. In this situation it is not useful to chase the snake, it is however important, to immediately take measures to get the poison out of the victim's body.

Views expressed by those in other religions

The second contributor, Mr. Weniger of the New Apostolic Church, Upper Austria, stepped to the

podium. Due to his professional experience, he emphasized strongly how important it is to be at peace with oneself. Since he comes from Hamburg, he also experienced intensely the enthusiastic mood after German reunification and during the time when disarmament efforts nurtured great hope for world peace.

Mrs. Bindreiter, representative of the Buddhist community on the Upper Austrian Religion Advisory Board, elaborated in her statement the four prime virtues in Buddhism: loving goodness or charity, compassion (not pity), shared joy and serenity and the ability to look at a situation from both sides. She was not just talking about these prime virtues, we had the feeling that she personally is working very seriously on their realization.



Mr. Mehmed Becirbasic, representative of the Bosnian Mosque in Steyr, in turn reported on a very touching way about his personal experience when he came as a refugee child to Austria. The respectful attention of his primary school teacher helped him to adhere to his roots and to keep a goal in mind. If you cannot attain an affinity to your roots and if you have no goals, a peaceful togetherness will be difficult to realize. Out of gratitude, he visited this former teacher after many years. His former teacher told him simply that he as a teacher he always felt as if he were a peasant sowing seeds. If he is able to see that after years the seeds are sprouting and bearing good fruits, that is the best way to thank him.

Mr. and Mrs. Lipp of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints stepped together to the podium. As parents of four adult children, they emphasized the importance of parental love to help all one's children to stick together, even if they go in different directions in life. This is the way to bring peace into the family. During this process, to always see the good in the other, even if you cannot understand many things about the other is very important. Precisely this brings peace to me, to the family and the community. With this attitude we are then able to bring about development leading to finally changing the world for the better.