

UPF Nederland supports UN Day of Peace Event

Nijmegen, Netherlands, 21st September 2013



Jan van Winden, Rudi & Thea Rijntjes and Bert & Lisa Janssen working together as one, sharing our vision of how to contribute to Peace, based on the UPF ideology & activities.



A peace event took place in the city centre of Nijmegen, a town of more than 165,000 inhabitants in the south-east of the Netherlands, close to the German border.

This Peace Event was initiated and organized by the Council of Ideology and Religion Nijmegen together with the Council of Churches in Nijmegen, in response to the Peace Week as it is celebrated world-wide. The theme was "What do you do to bring Peace?" It was sponsored by local and national organizations and groups. As members of the Council for a couple of years, some Universal Peace Federation supporters have been actively involved in the organization, taking care of the logistics, hanging huge banners in different locations throughout the city and helping to distribute flyers for this happening. We worked alongside Christians, Muslims, Jews and a variety of other people and groups.

A podium was erected in the middle of the city, and the program included music, choirs, dance and

speeches by the mayor and other dignitaries. Away from the main podium, there were activities for children, storytelling, face painting, dance, or simply playing with unusual wooden toys. At the nearby library a big space was used for poetry, music and other presentations about peace. During the week there were also some spiritual services in different locations, such as community halls and churches, with Peace as main topic.

The square was filled with market stalls manned by various religious and ethnic groups, and NGOs.

The Universal Peace Federation was also had a stall, and we gave out information and True Father's autobiography.

All together it was truly a multi religious and multi cultural event, such as we would like to see in every town!

Report by Rudi Rijntjes