

UN Peace Day held in Iceland, 24th Sept. 2015

UPF - Iceland



The Hallgrimskirkja, venue of the UPF-Peace Day in Reykjavik.  
Right : Statue of Leifur Eiriksson the frist European discoverer of North America.





## UN - Day of Peace

Love, Respect, Tolerance, Beyond Borders



Hallgrimskirkja, Reykjavik, Iceland 24th of September 15



Dear True Parents, Dear Leaders,

The UPF Event in Iceland was aligned with the UN Day of Peace. Preparations soon started after the event last year held in the Frikirkjan Reykjavik.

This time the Hallgrimskirkja generously opened its doors wide for this event. The priest at this church Sigurdur Árni Þórdarson had studied alongside with Tom Walsh in the United States in his early years.

The Hallgrimskirkja is by far the biggest church in Iceland and a national symbol of Christianity. The windows are without colours or decoration, but designed in a way, that if the sun shines and the angle are right the church is bathed in shining light. Exactly this happened on this day, whereas the days before the event the weather as so often had been bad.

The event was nicely enriched by the front singer of the international renowned music band

GusGus, Daniel Águst Haraldsson and the best Icelandic soprano singer Hallveig Rúnarsdóttir. Daniel sang a song free of charge.

The speakers were besides Sigurdur, leaders of Soka Gakai, Ása Trua (Pagan faith), Islam, the free Lutheran church, Ahmaddiyya Muslims and I.

There were 50 participants who stayed from beginning to end, most participated in the bridge of peace ceremony as well. Especially during the songs the church filled up, so that sometimes there were unknown numbers of onlookers coming and going, since the church was open, but not disturbing.

Outstanding was the speech of Hjörtur Magni who was still amazed by his participation at the world summit in Seoul. He especially was inspired by the Sunhak Peace price and that now "coincidentally" the most powerful religious leader and the most powerful political leader met in the United States to discuss matters of climate change.



My speech was centered on the piece making effort of our founder, mentioning the recent aid in the Pacific and Nepal. Having a lady as a co-founder of a religion in these times is surely an advantage and I expressed my deep satisfaction about it.

Next we had a bridge of peace ceremony which was highly appreciated and elevated the already bright spirit of this day. The first persons to hug each other were real enemies of the past, Sigurdur (National Church) and Hjörtur Frikirkjan) who had been criticizing the National church for quite some years. In the beginning Sigurdur had difficulties to announce Hjörtur even as a speaker.

The result of this event are new contacts and growing respect for our movement and True Parents.

Because of the preparations for this event, struggling for weeks, finally I decided to refrain from participating physically in the SeongWha of True Father but was seeking to glorify True Parents in a substantial way by having Hjörtur represent Iceland in Korea and continuing preparations in my mission country.

Sorry True Mother I hope you can accept this.

To add to the success of the event, we are invited to have the same event again here next year. Since this is a monumental venue it is an attraction for a European if not world summit of UPF here. As I have encouraged the leadership during the leaders meeting in Korea to participate, I like to renew my invitation to do it together next year. May God bless you and guide you in glorifying our True Parents.

Rohan



Historical enemies embrace each other: Rev. Sigurdur Thordarson, priest of Hallgrimskirkja and Rev. Hjörtur Johannsson, blessed member and leader of the Frikirkjan in Reykjavik.



Embracing my new friend from Portugal.



My wife and her new friend



Soprano singer Hallveig with her new friend



Rev. Thordarson: "I put full confidence in you and the Unification movement."





...Tourists joined as well...



Christianity and Ahmaddiyya Muslim Community



Rev. Hjörtur Johannsson, an admirer of True Parents work for peace and the natural environment.