The year 2008 has already seen many exciting new developments for the Universal Peace Federation, with the promise of many more to come.

Right after our 2008 Assembly in Seoul, Korea, in February, the Americas Initiative began with an International Leadership Conference in Montevideo, Uruguay. The response was so warm that a second conference was held in Asunción, Paraguay. On this occasion—featured in this issue of UPF Today—the UPF leadership team also met with Paraguayan president Nicanor Duarte Frutos. On the strength of this encouraging start, a UPF ILC tour to six nations—Belize, Costa Rica, and Panama in Central America and Peru, Uruguay, and Brazil in the South—was scheduled for April. Then in July, the first of this year’s Global Peace Festivals will kick off in Paraguay.

Meanwhile, UPF was able to participate in the peace initiatives in Kenya following that nation’s recent troubles. Several peace conferences in Nairobi helped start the healing process, with Ambassadors for Peace taking a very public stance to appeal for peace, reason, and calm. I became the first foreign visitor to the new Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

We have several new publications in our portfolio: the New World Encyclopedia, focused on values and peace; a new version of the International Leadership Conference Peace Curriculum; and a report on the Middle East Peace Initiative. We are particularly pleased to announce the addition of two new languages to the UPF Today family: Russian and Korean now join English, Spanish, and French for both the print and the online versions.

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In a response to the recent crisis in Kenya, UPF-Africa brought together a group of 800 leaders of Kenyan society at the Kenyatta International Conference Center in Nairobi to urgently consider how the core vision, principles, and programs of UPF might contribute to a peaceful resolution.

The conference, co-sponsored by Kenyan Veterans for Peace and with support from local corporations, was convened on the very day when the Kenyan parliament was in session with the specific purpose to bring an end to the political impasse and civil unrest that has plagued the country since the disputed presidential election of December 27, 2007.

The solution was worked out in consultation with former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who called for the establishment of a power-sharing structure. Thus, in addition to the President and Vice President, there will now be a Prime Minister and two Deputy Prime Ministers. President Mwai Kibaki’s challenger, Hon. Raila Odinga, was appointed Prime Minister Designate on March 18.

The UPF Secretary General Dr. Thomas G. Walsh thus became the first foreign visitor following the historic peace agreement to call upon Hon. Raila Odinga and Mrs. Ida Odinga, who have both been actively involved in the work of UPF over the past few years. The new Prime Minister explained that he had found the peace principles of the UPF “very helpful” in a time of desperate crisis.

The two-day conference was the latest in the ongoing UPF series of International Leadership Conferences on the theme, “Toward a New Paradigm of Leadership and Good Governance for Peace and Development.” The presenters included Dr. Walsh; Dr. Manu Chandaria, Trustee, Mahatma Gandhi Foundation of Kenya; Mr. Martin Luther King III, Chairman of Realizing the Dream; Mr. Insu Choi of the Youth Federation for World Peace International. Rev. Mwalagho Kililo, Secretary General of UPF Africa; and Dr. Hee Sun Ji, Chairman of UPF-Kenya were the local hosts.

Dr. Chandaria spoke about Mahatma Gandhi, the inspiration for the emergence of Nairobi University. In honor of the presence of Mr. Martin Luther King III, he underscored the influence of Gandhi on the great non-violent civil rights leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. King spoke of the non-violent legacy of his father and mother and the ideal of a “beloved community” of peace. As Chairman of Realizing the Dream, Inc., Mr. King had come to Kenya to offer his support and encouragement and to learn as much as he could about the current situation and explore ways in which Realizing the Dream could be a partner for peace. Dr. King invited the 1000 participants in the ILC to become Ambassadors for Peace. He said, “Sometimes we must take positions not because they are politic or popular, but because they are right.”
He added that we should learn to “lead with love,” and spoke passionately about the need for an interfaith vision and of the challenge of turning dreams into reality. Mr. King also praised the decision by President Kibaki and Hon. Odinga to form a coalition, power-sharing government.

UPF-Africa and UPF-Kenya in particular are developing in substantial and very encouraging ways. Moreover, the International Leadership Conferences continue to be a major force promoting peace leadership and good governance. In conversation with several parliamentarians, Dr. Walsh and Rev. Kililo reported a spirit of great hope and resolve to work for a bright and peaceful future for Kenya.

**KENYA PEACE CONFERENCE**

*Sometimes we must take positions not because they are politic or popular, but because they are right. We must learn to lead with love.*

– MARTIN LUTHER KING III

We have gathered here today to celebrate peace. Let me emphasize that if we could, we do not even wish to remember the unpleasantness that has just shown its ugly face in our beautiful country.

We have gained a great deal from the precious knowledge shared by such magnificent speakers like Dr. Thomas Walsh, Dr. Manu Chandaria, and Mr. Martin Luther King III. I am delighted to see such a big number of people from various ethnic groups, interests, and countries.

On behalf of everyone, I wish to thank all the speakers. Also, thanks are due to all religious representatives and representatives of various foundations present here today. Thanks are due to each and every listener for your precious time. I can see you are deeply touched by the words of wisdom you are carrying home with you. Bringing together the two sides has never been an easy task.

To blend and give a common essence of life to suit the taste of each individual is not easy. I can vouch for the fact that today’s speakers have met this challenge of talking to this diverse audience so very perfectly. We are indeed very highly enlightened. Our knowledge has been added to.

Various Ambassadors for Peace and various officials from diplomatic missions are here to grace the occasion. We wish to thank them all. Thanks to all sponsors, including friends of Dr. Manu Chandaria, and as you can see from this banner, Manji Biscuits.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that woman power, though rarely spoken of, is very important. I appeal to the Universal Peace Federation and to all of you to remember the advice of Martin Luther King III to look into sisterhood and register more women Ambassadors for Peace!

*We have been highly enlightened*

*By Mrs. Neerja Mehta*

Neerja Mehta, Ambassador for Peace, runs a paramedic and health care supplies business in Nairobi.
On March 18, 2008 Kenya’s legislators approved an agreement in which opposition leader Raila Odinga will become Prime Minister of Kenya. In the days leading up to the vote, UPF joined leaders of civil society, religious groups, and diplomatic missions in Kenya in conducting major lobbying efforts in hopes that Kenya will regain economic stability and once again be a haven for peace in East Africa.

UPF Kenya organized a ten-day leadership seminar at the UPF Peace Embassy in Nairobi for retired and former men and women of the armed forces with the theme of “Kenya Veterans for Peace, Unity, Reconciliation, and Forgiveness.” Participants received education about a wide variety of topics related to peace, including principles of good governance, character education and HIV/AIDS prevention. More than 300 people gathered for the closing ceremony, at which the Nairobi Provincial Commissioner was represented. His representatives praised the role that UPF undertook to educate people to serve as peacemakers.

UPF Ambassadors for Peace also held a candlelight peace vigil on February 6 in the heart of Nairobi, at Uhuru Park. Political leaders and religious leaders, all of them UPF Ambassadors for Peace, came together to call attention to the need to reflect and pray for peace in the nation. They also took a moment to remember those who were bereaved and displaced.
A new coalition of players is intensely bound by their love of Africa to work together transcending tribalism and expanding the awareness of one African family under God.

Shock and dismay over the ethnic killings, destruction of property, and displacement of tribal communities in reaction to the disputed presidential election in Kenya have spread far beyond Africa. Even as UPF-Kenya was planning its local peace efforts, UPF-USA went forward with a leadership forum in Washington, DC, featuring Kenya’s Ambassador to the US, Hon. Peter Ogego, as a keynote speaker.

Joseph Wakaria, the Executive Director of Jamii Africa, a Washington-based non-profit organization, began by explaining that the current explosion of intertribal violence could be traced back to previous undercurrents of animosity. There was a palpable urgency in the standing-room only audience, along with an obvious love for the motherland, Africa.

Dr. Sulayman Nyang, Chair of the African Studies Department at Howard University, suggested that Kenya stands out in East Africa because of “settler colonialism,” which created tension not only between whites and blacks but between blacks and blacks. “Problems in neighboring countries resonate in Kenya, and refugees live in Kenya along with others who were brought from outside, such as the Indians,” he said. He summarized the complex relationships between these different groups and analyzed the impact of globalization, global terrorism, and the fight between extremist groups playing out in Kenya.

A couple of speakers sounded a note of warning of what could happen in Kenya if a peaceful resolution cannot be found. Dr. Greg Stanton, the founder of the International Campaign to End Genocide, told the audience of his experience of being in Rwanda in 1994, before the genocide began, and he sees similar signs in Kenya.

“There is one race, the human race,” said Stanton; “99.9 percent of our DNA is the same. We are of the same family; and there is one God who made us all. This is one fundamental reason why genocide is such a sin and a horror.” Stanton described genocide and tribalism as not just African problems, stating that more than 100 million Europeans were killed in the twentieth century. He explained that efforts are necessary to stop genocide before it takes over a nation. Genocide can be attacked at each stage: classification, symbolization, dehumanization, organization, polarization, preparation, extermination, and denial.

Dandi Lou Amanan from Côte d’Ivoire shared experiences that moved many in the audience to tears. She was a Social Services Officer with the UN Refugee Agency and worked in Côte d’Ivoire with Liberian refugees and in Rwanda during the genocide. The most shocking story
was about four Tutsi children who were brought to a refugee center, where Hutu children began to beat them. When she shouted, “Who told you to do this?” they replied, “Our parents taught us we should kill the Tutsis because they have no right to live!”

Mr. Jim Flynn, Secretary General of UPF-USA, agreed that there are many situations where differences are exploited and the worst of human violence is highlighted. However, human beings also have noble qualities, he said. He described an intangible, spiritual essence that defines our common humanity. “It is time for the nobler qualities of all of us to emerge in a positive and strong way,” he stated.

After explaining UPF’s five Peace Principles, Flynn charged the audience to seek reconciliation and reconnect as one human family under God.

This passionate call was followed by an intense yet respectful debate. The speakers received questions from the audience, and the atmosphere was one of understanding and compassion. One woman lamented that her son had been killed in the violence, and the Ambassador assured her that the perpetrators would be brought to justice.

Ten distinguished participants at the Leadership Forum were appointed as Ambassadors for Peace, and after the program ended, many people continued talking vigorously in small groups. People felt something was being born—a new coalition of players intensely bound by their love of Africa to work together transcending tribalism and expanding the awareness of one African family under God.

**WE MUST ACT**

*By Hon. Peter Ogego, Ambassador of Kenya to the United States*

Kenya has gone through a lot of problems in the last 25 years. The fact is that many of the ethnic divisions in the country are being used and manipulated by self-seeking politicians who rather easily manipulate the ethnic and tribal groups, stirring them up against each other.

However, there is no quick fix. To start with, we have to educate people about the history and situations in Kenya, and in particular about the colonial injustices that led to the expropriation of the lands from the Kikuyu community.

We have a long sensitive history. The British pushed the Africans out of the central highlands, reserving the center of the country for the blue-eyed folks and leaving us with many complicated problems. Politicians tell the landless people that they are poor because others are rich with land.

When I see a man carrying a machete, intending to chop down another man like a tree, we must act, no matter who that man is or which tribe he comes from. We must bring all the killers to justice. That is something on which all parties agree. Kenya is bigger than the politicians, and a few people cannot ruin the country.

*Hon. Peter Ogego was detained for seven years for his role in previous reform efforts, but he has never lost hope in a lasting peace for his country.*

He spoke of a “culture of service” and a vision of uniting individuals and organizations to promote peace and the common good, calling service “an essential component of any complete life.”

Dr. Miguel Abdón Saguier, president of the Senate, opened the conference at a prestigious honor session held inside the general assembly hall of the National Congress. Julio María Sanguinetti, former President of Uruguay, also addressed the session, underscoring the need for greater emphasis on education, interreligious dialogue, and the family.

This conference built on a similar International Leadership Conference held in Uruguay in January, and another former Uruguayan president, Luis Alberto Lacalle, called for closer bonds between North and South America based on universal values and democracy, in order to reduce the inequalities among the peoples of the region.

Conference participants included government officials, legislators, diplomats, academics, spiritual leaders, and heads of civil society organizations.

Participants working with the youth of their country were especially impressed by the presentations. Architect Julia Maciel, former Minister of Planning, commented, “I have always thought that by helping and educating the youth, we can build a great country. Now I know why this is true.” Dr. Alda Cardoso, Director of the Marco Aguayo Foundation against AIDS, said, “We have the same principles and ideals, and I will double my efforts on topics such as the morality of our country’s youth.”

Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, chairman of the International Leadership Conference, envisions a moral transformation in Paraguay that could yield a model for Latin America and promote increased friendship,
cooperation, and trade throughout the hemisphere. He talked about his father, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, and his dream of building one family under God.

I have always thought that by helping and educating the youth, we can build a great country. Now I know why this is true.

— ARCHITECT JULIA MACIEL

Lic. Hugo Britez, a sociologist, commented: “I was surprised to find such a broad, variable, and heterogeneous level of different segments of Paraguay’s high society. This demonstrates that Dr. Moon’s message is inclusive and potentially useful especially on topics such as tolerance and development.”

The International Leadership Conferences offer a comprehensive vision of peacebuilding involving the collaborative efforts of governments, faith-based organizations, religions, civil society, and the private sector.

“This is what Paraguay needed,” commented Engineer Oscar Ruben Salomón, Chairman of Paraguay’s House of Representatives; “I commit myself to support the Federation’s projects from my position and as a common citizen.” Congressman Sebastián Acha from the Patria Querida Party said “I commit myself to continue supporting you in all the subjects, especially the topic of character.”

The international delegation paid a courtesy call on the President of Paraguay, Nicanor Duarte Frutos. They discussed the importance of public service and ways to encourage young people to contribute their energy and creativity as volunteers to serve their community and nation.

UPF’s Peacebuilding Curriculum

The Paraguay conference featured presentations from UPF’s peacebuilding curriculum. Topics included God’s Ideal for Peace, presented by Thomas Field, director of the news agency UPI for Latin America, Spirituality and Leadership by Jorge Guldenzoph, President of the Uruguayan National Conference on Leadership; the Cause of Conflicts, by Ricardo de Sena, Director of UPF’s Office of UN Relations; the Principles of Reconciliation, by Dr. Antonio Betancourt, director of UPF’s Office of Government Relations; and Character Education, by Lic. Jesús González, President of the International Educational Foundation.

Newly-appointed Ambassadors for Peace
I have a big hope for Paraguay and for all Latin America. I am finding in this nation an encouraging desire to embrace a new frontier, to finish with the old ways, and to enter a new age. I believe that if the Western hemisphere can unite it will demonstrate to the world a model of equality, freedom, and dignity that come from God, our eternal Heavenly Father.

My parents were born in Korea, a nation devastated by war. When I was four years old, our family came to America. Ever since then, our whole family has been traveling to all six continents, sharing the vision of all humanity as one family under God. My father teaches that this vision is nothing less than the original dream and ideal of God Himself.

As I grew up in the United States, I came to realize that it is a country of great material abundance that has lost its internal direction. The American dream was not merely an economic or political vision, but the conviction of a nation that recognized God’s sovereignty and respected human rights as the common inheritance of mankind. The US Constitution says that true human rights do not come from human institutions. They are an inalienable right, an inheritance from our Heavenly Father. As such, they are above politics and worldly laws.

In times of trials and difficulties, that fundamental legacy gave the US direction and purpose. Whenever political, economic, or social changes shook the nation, it was able to stand firm and prosper because it had this immutable foundation.

As a Korean who adopted that nation as my own, I came to understand that anyone who aspires to build a world of true prosperity, peace, and human dignity first has to recognize God’s dignity, and make Him the center of their conversations.

In this time of global conflict, the vision of building one family under God is starting to resonate in hearts of people all over world. UPF has been working with many governments to present its character education curriculum, sharing this vision of peace. We are promoting a global awareness that
the abundance in this world is not for a few, but for all the children of God.

This message is the same message taught by the son of a carpenter 2000 years ago, born in a world that had accepted slavery, did not recognize women's rights, and lacked a concept of salvation for all. That carpenter's son gave a message of hope that changed history. The father of the fundamental principles ingrained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is none other than that son of a carpenter 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ.

But somehow, humanity lost that dream and divided into factions. We are divided by political position, nationality, race, ethnic group, and sadly even by religion.

One person who listened to Jesus' call to peace, who listened to the heart of our Heavenly Father, who wanted to see the human family united and the barriers broken was also the son of very humble parents, peasants living in the mountains of North Korea.

Even though most churches taught that God is omnipotent and omniscient, that young boy sensed that God as a Heavenly Father must be a suffering God. How could he be otherwise as he watched Koreans dominated by another nation, forbidden to speak their own language, and forbidden to practice their customs? On an Easter morning over 70 years ago in 1935, that young boy was praying and meditating, searching to liberate the suffering heart of God.

In prayer he received a revelation. He learned that God wanted to create a human family that would recognize His divinity and holiness, inherit that legacy, and become divine as well. People have had many dreams, but this dream was the biggest of all because it has been God's dream from the very beginning of creation.

He realized that this dream had to be shared with the world. Of course there were many who said, “Who are you to have such a big dream and speak about these big things?” Yet that boy had made a promise to God that no matter which road he had to take, even if he was sent to prison (which in fact happened six times), he would be faithful to that dream of building one family under God.

On that foundation we are standing here today, and that boy is none other than my father, the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

I believe that his dream is not just the dream of one man or one family but the dream of all mankind. I would like to challenge you to make that dream your own and become the agents of its realization. We are in a world of global crisis, but a bright light of hope can appear if we have a common vision and purpose based on common principles that come from our Heavenly Father.

My father's dream and his life work is to build one family under God. If anyone here is ready to dedicate himself or herself to that vision and dream, great things will happen through that person and to this nation. That is why my father invested in this country many years ago, even though it is one of the poorest South American countries.

You have inspired us to announce plans for a Global Peace Festival in Paraguay. Let us work together in this new era of cooperation to promote a bright future for this country, starting with a festival that celebrates the vision of building a big family under God, one family at a time.

We invite you to share this vision among your contacts so it becomes a national effort that elevates Paraguay as a leading nation on this continent, demonstrating the true leadership spirit needed in this new millennium and bringing prosperity and hope to this region and to all mankind!

Address to participants in UPF’s Conference on Leadership and Good Governance, Asunción, Paraguay, February 29, 2008.

UPF encourages all people to become true leaders who can mobilize nations, regions, and all mankind to build one family under God, because that human family will be a family of peace.
Two hundred and twenty world leaders, including prime ministers, presidents, government ministers, and diplomats as well as religious and civic leaders, concluded the third Summit for World Peace hosted by the Universal Peace Federation in Seoul, Korea, February 9-13, 2008.

The three-day peace conference coincided with the joint birthday celebrations of the UPF co-founders, Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. In a birthday message, Rev. Moon, now 88, spoke with conviction about the coming age of peace that he sees dawning in the early twenty-first century. “The future of humanity and of world peace rests on the future of the Pacific rim era,” he declared, echoing a message given around the world in 2007.

In support of this vision of peace starting from the Pacific, two representative prime ministers from Pacific island states—Samoa and Vanuatu—attended the conference, together with more than 30 other delegates who have held the highest elected offices in their nations.

“I have been waiting for a long time to come to this International Leadership Conference,” said Hon. Tuilaepa Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa. “The UPF has done important work in Samoa, and I was interested to learn more about the peace principles taught by Rev. Moon.” The Korean press was pleased to note that Malielegaoi, a champion archer, took time to while in Seoul to practice on one of Korea’s world-class archery ranges.

The Prime Minister of Vanuatu, H.E. Ham Lini, said, “Dr. Moon’s vision that world peace will begin in the Pacific rim region is one that resonates in my heart and that of all the Pacific rim peoples.”

Mr. Anton Rop, the former Prime Minister of
Slovenia, inspired everyone with the gripping and hopeful story of how peace came so suddenly to his nation after decades of oppression and suffering. Once part of the former Yugoslavia, Slovenia became independent in the early 1990s and somehow managed to avoid the ethnic conflicts and bloodshed that so devastated most of the Balkan peninsula in recent times. Slovenia joined NATO and the European Union in 2004, and remarkably the nation now holds the revolving Presidency of the European Union for 2008.

As North and South Korea enter yet another year of seemingly endless division, the example of Slovenia is one that the Koreas—and many other nations seeking peace—could do well to consider.

Interreligious leaders were also very much in evidence. “As Christians from the United States and Europe met and dialogued with Muslim leaders from Africa and Pakistan, a genuine spirit of brotherhood emerged,” said Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, Secretary General of UPF. “Although it may be true that religions have often been the source of world conflict, UPF is confident and hopeful that a new generation of religious leaders will take the lead in reconciliation and peacebuilding.”

Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, Co-Chairman of UPF, spoke about UPF’s plans for 2008, which include Global Peace Festivals to be held in dozens of cities and countries around the world. As celebrations of service, education, and cooperation, there were Global Peace Festivals in eight nations in 2007, their first year. “People everywhere are excited by the vision of the Global Peace Festivals,” he said, “and they will help propel the Universal Peace Federation and its many partners into even closer and more successful cooperation in the years to come.”
Father Moon’s vision that world peace will begin in the Pacific rim region is one that resonates in my heart. I too believe in the God-given idea that a union encompassing all the nations in the Pacific rim can be a model for peace and harmony which will secure peace for all mankind. This great vision is inspiring leaders and people throughout the Pacific region.

The people of the Pacific islands, even though few in number, share a special bond. Though we are separated by great distances, we are bound together by the very ocean that keeps us apart.

Vanuatu was rated as the happiest place in the world to live in a 2006 survey by the Friends of the Earth environmentalist group, even though we still have many problems. Through the Ambassadors for Peace program and the Universal Peace Federation, significant events have been initiated in Vanuatu that are helping our nation become a model for peace. Even though we are small in size, this vision has empowered us to think beyond our shores and dream of peace in the world.

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, was so moved by your decision to invite me, believing that you have Tanzania within your “peace map.” Peace knows no borders, political ideologies, religious dogma, social classes, geographical location, economic prosperity, ethnic origin, or language; nor does it know the gender of its consumers.

UPF is on a mission of God on earth that goes deep to meet the need; let us live to see it thrive, shine, and bring people to the origin of life and the true purpose of life. The mission and vision of UPF should go deep into our hearts, shine through our faces, and carry the message of harmonious interaction among world societies promoting the culture of one family shielded by the armor of God the creator and head of all families.

I come to you from a country that has mourned the loss of too many people through repetitious wars and conflicts. My country is often covered by the media as a land of fire, steel, and blood, a land that suffered the aggressions and greed of others, prompting many to feel that it was Lebanon’s destiny to carry the burdens of the world ruled by one hegemon.

Lebanon embraced its destiny very early in antiquity as a bridge and a messenger of “dialogue” between civilizations and cultures, as they mutually complemented and enriched each other. My country was never known for the expansionist and aggressive streak of its people; it was never known to build its vestiges on the suffering and destruction of others. As violence takes a steep turn to the worse worldwide, the people of Lebanon continue to believe in their destiny as bearers of this “message.”

Lebanon conveys, through me, its message of peace based on justice, equality, freedom, and development: in one word, a peace based on “right.” Let our meeting be a cry in the face of evil and destruction, in the face of all those who use evil to subjugate and aggress others. Let us seek and protect an “industry of peace,” as we strive to make the language of peace prevalent in the twenty-first century. We are called upon to commit to the principles of openness, tolerance, and justice, and to brush aside demagoguery and hatred. Let our commitment be to deed and not just to word.
Taking Peace Principles to Iraq

By David Mikho
Ambassador for Peace

My wife, Leyla, and I are from Dohuk, which is in the Kurdish area of northern Iraq on the border with Turkey. My life’s story is similar to that of many Iraqis who experienced the Saddam Hussein regime, and the fact that I am alive to give this testimony is a miracle. Now I can look back and clearly see how God has directed me and my family to this wonderful movement, UPF.

I saw battles as a medic in the wake of Saddam’s wars and was sentenced to prison for life at the whim of that dictator. The main reason others and I were allowed to dodge our life sentences is that the prisons were too full. When it was time to sleep, we had to lie on the floor head to feet, like a puzzle, with not an inch to spare. Release from prison, however, did not mean freedom, and we were under heavy surveillance. Because everyone in prison knew my character and philosophy, I was a threat to the regime. I was required to report every fifteen days, and they would make surprise visits. In school, my children were treated like part of a family of traitors. I witnessed many of my fellow Iraqis from different cultures and religions brutalized in ways that words cannot describe.

Leaving my country meant leaving all of my relatives and belongings behind. It would have been one of the most difficult things to do had it not been for a firm voice in my head giving me comfort. “Everything will turn out OK.” The story of how we came to America is a testimony of God directing our lives.

We headed for Istanbul, Turkey, because we heard it was a gateway for other countries. My brother, who was living in England, submitted paperwork for our family to settle there. We waited for two years in Istanbul. I felt hopeless, trying to provide for my young family. Every week I would report to the offices of Caritas, a Catholic charity. One day a French woman at the agency asked me, “Why don’t you move to the United States?” I told her that it seemed an impossible dream, but she said to come back the following Tuesday. It didn’t make sense to me that someone from France working with an agency of the Vatican was encouraging me to go to America where I had no sponsor.

On Tuesday, I walked miles through the rain to the Caritas office, knowing that thousands of people were more qualified than our family to go to America, where we had no relatives or sponsors. My wife had put a heavy raincoat on me, handed me an umbrella, and pushed me out the door. When I got to the building, my agent said to me with the brightest smile, “Congratulations! You are going to the United States!” I couldn’t believe it. I began to thank her knowing that it would never be enough. I walked home with the most wonderful feeling, even though the weather was still miserable. After a few months of paperwork, we were on our way. Thus, I am here for reasons beyond my own.

I believe that the philosophy of UPF can bring lasting peace to my country, the Middle East.

Guiding Principles of Ambassadors for Peace

• We are one human family created by God.
• The highest qualities of the human being are spiritual and moral in nature.
• The family is the “school of love and peace.”
• Living for the sake of others is the way to reconcile the divided human family.
• Peace comes through cooperation beyond the boundaries of ethnicity, religion, and nationality.
region, and ultimately the world. After attending the International Leadership Conference in Hawaii, it became clear to me that the dreams that I had as a young man were preparation for this time of my life. Living in the worst hell imaginable, I had dreamed that one day all good people, whatever their religion, would live together in peace. UPF has erased any doubt in my mind that this can now be achieved.

I determined to go back to Dohuk and nominate as Ambassadors for Peace friends and community leaders who are already true Ambassadors for Peace. Dohuk is now under the semiautonomous government of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). I arrived on September 11, 2007. The first person I nominated was my friend, Mr. Patros Jajo, a commissioner with the KRG and a member of the Christian High Council. Mr. Jajo is a humble man, well loved throughout the region as a hero because of the many lives and families he saved. When I shared the five principles of Ambassadors for Peace with Patros, he was so moved and said, “This is the movement we need.” In the midst of his busy schedule, he immediately began to introduce me to local leaders, beginning with Mr. Mohamed Mohsin, regional director for the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

He accompanied me practically every day and helped me with transportation. When I explained the five principles, everyone understood that this is not another religion or a political point of view but a movement capable of bringing people together. I was able to speak with hundreds of people during the 80 days I was in Iraq, and as this new idea spread the radio and TV media gave us coverage.

After two weeks in Dohuk, Patros began to call his loyal friends and contacts in the KRG in Arbil. I was greatly inspired by a woman leader in the KRG, Mrs. Shirin Fatah Amedee. She is well known for her role in advancing women’s rights. I was inspired that someone with her status and popularity had such a humble heart and compassion for others. She traveled four hours to meet me in Dohuk and listened intently as I shared with her Dr. Sun Myung Moon’s philosophy of the five principles of peace. “These five principles are already in me,” she responded. “We have been waiting for them.” She introduced me to key KRG Cabinet Ministers the following week.

The President of the KRG Parliament, Mr. Adnan Mufti, was intrigued by the philosophy of peace and especially the character education program. I explained to him, the best way I could, that lasting world peace takes generations of character education. He recommended that I make an appointment to meet the Minister of Education, Mr. Dilshad Mohammad. The two weeks in Arbil allowed me to meet numerous members of the parliament and other KRG officials.

I met with people from almost every religion and political party and shared with them the principles taught by Dr. Moon. All of them received the principles gratefully and graciously. We will continue to develop UPF there with increasing fervor.

David Mikho, an Ambassador for Peace, lives in Sterling Heights, Michigan, with his wife Leyla and their five children. David is a member of the Iraqi Human Rights Society in the U.S.
What is the UPF model of peacebuilding? It is to bring people from opposite sides of a conflict together and encourage them to offer tangible, concrete acts of reconciliation. In 1607, the English established their first permanent settlement in North America and called it Jamestown. Women descendants of Colonial settlers and Native People chose to mark the 400th anniversary by gathering in a spirit of reconciliation in nearby Norfolk, Virginia, a city mentioned in the Peace Messages of UPF’s Founder, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, as having a key role in peacebuilding between East and West.

The December 1, 2007, gathering, sponsored by UPF-USA and affiliate organizations, was entitled “Peacemakers for Sacred Healing.” It drew more than 160 people from the United States, England, Israel, and Japan.

The keynote speaker was Angela L. Daniel “Silver Star,” an adopted member of the Mattaponi tribe and doctoral student in anthropology who co-wrote The True Story of Pocahontas: The Other Side of History. The book states: “Only from truthful history can true history be learned. Only by true history can we learn from our mistakes. Only by learning from our mistakes can we create a better life for all mankind,” Daniel said. “It is never too late for peace.”

The event was infused with Native American culture. To prepare the spiritual atmosphere, the room was purified with a “smudging” ceremony conducted by Rev. George Akeen from Oklahoma, Clay Two Bears from California, and Dr. Shuki Ben Ami from Israel. Music and dances were performed by Delwin Fiddler, Jr., great-great grandson of Chief Elk Head Red Hair, otherwise known as the Hehakapa family; and Vaughnda Hilton (Blackfeet/Seminole/Greek) of the Native Nations Dance Theater from Pennsylvania.
Maria Williams Cole, representing the Daughters of the American Revolution, congratulated the group on its efforts to build bridges of peace. Rev. Claire Daugherty, whose inspiration led to this event, spoke words of repentance for the wrongs of the past, stressing that while we cannot rewrite this tragic history, we know that from this moment the future is a blank slate.

Perhaps the most deeply felt moment of the afternoon was the White American “Give Away,” an innovative adaptation of an ancient Native American tradition, which was followed by the “Honor Song.”

Brenda Miller gathered descendants of white European colonists including such historical figures as Roger Williams, William Penn, John Hancock, Nathan Hale, and Alexander Hamilton to give gifts to twelve people of Native American ancestry.

Each gift was prayerfully selected especially for the ceremony, including a statue of repentance, covered crystal bowl, wooden bowl, drum, necklace, blanket, heart made of crystal, original oil painting, a sequined shawl, and a “Four Races of Mankind” statue. The deep, symbolic meaning of each gift showing restoration for the painful past was explained by Brenda as each Colonial representative, one by one, offered the gift to each Native American recipient.

People sensed a deep healing between the spiritual and physical worlds and between ancestors and descendants. Representatives of the Apache, Arapaho, Blackfoot, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Chickahominy, Creek, Lakota Sioux, Omaha, Pueblo, and Seminole were there to receive the gifts.

Norfolk Declaration
December 1, 2007

We, the undersigned, are the Peacemakers for Sacred Healing between Native Americans and non-Native Americans.

We free ourselves from the pain and anguish of our past.

Our committed friendship is bound on earth and in heaven, in the spirit of our Ancestors.

We continue to respect our sacred earth, especially our love for America and will together serve the world as One Family Under God, Great Spirit, Yahweh, Allah, Jehovah, Heavenly Father, Creator, True Parent.
Alexa Ward, president of the Women’s Federation for World Peace-USA, explained the meaning of the Bridge of Peace Ceremony in which Colonial descendants were paired with Native American descendants under the guidance of Mary Holden and Rev. Angelika Selle. As the newly paired sisters stepped off the bridge, they each signed an agreement to become a “Peacemaker for Sacred Healing.”

Four participants with Native ancestry received Ambassador for Peace certificates: Rev. Karen Sandoval from Virginia, Wynema Morris from Nebraska, Pastor Barbara Carva from North Carolina, and Angela Daniel Silver Star from Virginia.

Rev. Linda Cornier led a celebration toast stating that we are all part of one family under God.

Mrs. Reiko Jenkins, representing the American Clergy Leadership Conference Women in Ministry, punctuated the afternoon with a passionate statement: “...No country can say they didn’t make a mistake; all of us have shame. Today let us consider that we come together as God’s children. Only God can give us reconciliation of heart and liberate us so that we are no longer individuals but one family under God.”

NOTE:

On December 21, a $500 scholarship was presented to Chief Adkins from the Chickahominy tribe, who will select a youth as the recipient. This special gift was offered by Nathan and Debra Loew through their Mustard Seed Family Society.

In March, several women from the Washington, DC, area visited Angela Daniel Silver Star and Marjorie Sunflower Sargent, two Mattaponi representatives, to deliver donations collected in their communities. Ms. Sargent, the Administrative Director of the Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic, told them, “At the most crucial time, I received a donation which was not big money but just enough to cover the expenses.” She suggested that many of the 400 Mattaponi served by the clinic would appreciate receiving birthday cards. For more information contact:

Ms. Marjorie Sunflower Sargent
5406 Horan Court
Williamsburg, VA 23188 USA.
The “Way of Tea” encourages us to reach the highest ideals of internal character and is meant to also be a guide in human affairs.

What we learn in the Way of Tea is how to respect others, live in harmony and peace, and obtain tranquility of heart. It also teaches beautiful manners and the etiquette of serving others.

Our office in Washington, DC, offers traditional Japanese Tea Ceremonies for members of the diplomatic corps as a way to promote a culture of peace.

In the tea ceremony, there are several movements made by the master in the process of preparing and

The essence of the “Way of Tea” is the “Heart of Peace.” The spirit and teaching of the Way of Tea is expressed in four Chinese characters:

和 (Harmony)
敬 (Respect)
清 (Purity)
寂 (Tranquility)

Wa is the state of harmony and beauty that creates a feeling of goodness.

Kei is the attitude of respect for all things. This is not only a sincere respect for human beings but for the sanctity of nature and all material objects.

Sei is purification. The pure heart without flaw makes a person honest, truthful, and sincere.

Jyaku is tranquility. At the level of enlightenment where you are in oneness with the universal principle, there is only tranquility in one’s heart.

Top: A Tea Ceremony set
Middle left: Mrs. Kumiko Francis, Tea Ceremony Master, making tea
Middle right: Sweets are served before the green tea, which has a rather bitter taste. All things complement each other. By serving something sweet first, the appreciation for the tea increases. Customarily, the tea ceremony has a theme according to the season. On this occasion, the shapes of the sweets symbolized autumn: a gingko leaf, a purple bellflower, and white chrysanthemum.
Bottom left: The kimonos worn by the hosts correspond to the theme.
serving the tea which symbolize the purification of the heart.

The Way of Tea is a guide for living. The other extreme is Bushido, or the Way of Samurai, and is a guide for dying.

Bushido was initiated and practiced by the Samurai, who were the leadership and warrior class in the military government in the Japanese feudal system. In contrast, the Way of Tea was initiated and became popular among merchants, who were considered to be in the lowest class.

The Way of Tea spread from the bottom up. The practice was not forced on any class of society, and it grew naturally in popularity.

It is also true that warriors and lords patronized the drinking of tea and promoted the tea ceremony.

Often when they were in a battle, a tea master would accompany the lord with a portable tea set for the ceremony. The tea ceremony helped the lord find calm and tranquility even in the midst of battle.

The fundamental teaching of the Way of Tea is the equality of all people, in order to eliminate any elements which might give advantage to a particular kind of person.

The Way of Tea offers useful guidelines on how we can live together with respect, peace, and harmony. For this reason, the Way of Tea has lasted centuries after the disappearance of the Samurai.
diplomat by profession, my father is a living example of integrity and maturity, which are crucial for promoting peace. The common theme running through his life is his confidence in non-violence as a potent instrument for ushering in durable peace at the individual and collective levels. Despite holding positions as India’s Ambassador to the European Union, UN, Nepal, Mexico, and Belgium, my father has retained his humility. His becoming an Ambassador for Peace of the Universal Peace Federation founded by Dr. Sun Myung Moon is a culmination of a life-long dedication to peace. It is also a new challenge.

UPF states that peace starts within the self, when the mind and the body are in good harmony. Thus, to conquer the body and make it a “peace embassy” is the first step. Living abroad for four decades, my parents traveled to different continents, cultures, and civilizations. Keeping the demanding tenets of the Jain faith while living in so many diverse cultures was a constant challenge for them.

My father likes to tell an anecdote when Alexander the Great conquered India. He met a Jain muni (monk). Puzzled to see that the monk attracted a large, admiring audience wherever he went, while people feared the Emperor, Alexander asked the monk, “What is it you have which I do not have?” The monk replied: “I never take anything; I have given up everything. I thus teach my followers to learn to give more and more and take less and less. You have always taken from the people but have given them nothing.”

The spirit of giving, not taking, has guided my father throughout his life. Brought up in a middle-class family, my father reached top positions while managing to retain the ethical standards of the compassionate Jain philosophy of “Live and let live.” Non-violence is ingrained in his thoughts, emotions, and intellectual outlook. His beliefs, character, and intellectual development are the fabric of peace formation. The credit goes to the deeply rooted religious and cultural upbringing of his parents.

The family as a school of holistic peace

Marriage and family life brought my father to a new level of peacemaking. My mother is very supportive, courageous, and reassuring to my father in times of crisis. She plays a crucial role in the progress of my father’s life. Apart from serving and taking care of the family needs, my parents help and support others. Currently, they are deeply involved in rehabilitation of villagers affected by the hydroelectric dams that are being built along the Narmada River in Madhya Pradesh, a state in central India.

We learn from the experience and wisdom of our parents that peace begins with a conviction about the truth. This comes with introspection. When we integrate the power of body, mind, spirit, and faith in prayer, we attain holistic peace and harmony. True happiness comes when you discover holistic peace and embrace it with all your heart, mind, and soul. For my father, peaceful living is a journey, not a destination. He chooses to live for the sake of others by making it the mission of his life.

My father is the true role model of peace for me. I can feel his positive vibrations in my heart, mind, and spirit. Motivated by my father’s unconditional support, I earnestly desire to become an Ambassador of Peace, following his footsteps.
From the extended family to one family under God

The Indian cultural heritage regards the family as *vasudhaiv Kutumbakum*, meaning “the world is all one family.” Dr. Jain practices these virtues. Equipped with such a profound faith and with a public mind, my father embraces the UPF slogan of one family under God. He sees the UPF Founder, Dr. Moon, as a modern apostle of peace, formulating social ethics and molding family values of interdependence, mutual love, supportiveness, and above all living for the sake of others.

During his time working at the United Nations, Dr. Jain promoted peacebuilding strategies around the world. Believing that with a strong movement for peace, the world can be saved, and that non-violence is mightier than nuclear missiles, he mobilized developing countries to defend their interests during the 1973 oil crisis. He attended the UN Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, where Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, famously asked the delegates: “Are not poverty and need the greatest polluters?”

Later, at the 1993 Parliament of the World’s Religions in Chicago, Dr. Jain realized even more deeply that all religions focused on peace, compassion, harmony, and fraternity. The challenge is how we can unite them all as a “global society.” Indian wisdom states that the pathway to peace entails non-violence (*ahimsa*), non-absolutism (*anekant*), and non-possession (*aparigraha*). We need to be individually and collectively persistent and work together in creating peaceful synergy in the world. The time has come to brighten the spark in every human soul for spreading worldwide message of a “culture of non-violence and reverence for life.”

When we look internally, we all envision world peace. Inner peace is something of true worth; it makes us feel good and makes us realize the true value of a peacemaker. Peace for humanity works best when we are selfless. We need to make a “peace commitment” internally in our spirit, then in our mind, and then formulate peace in action. This will strengthen a culture of peace in the world and promote peace through non-violence in all segments of human endeavor.

We need to make a “peace commitment” internally in our spirit, then in our mind, and then formulate peace in action.

Call for Portraits of Peace:
UPF Today welcomes features about Ambassadors for Peace. Suggested length: 700 to 1000 words. Send essays and photos to editor@upf.org.

Membership in UPF

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) extends an invitation to become part of a community of peacemakers. The Universal Peace Federation members include leaders in fields such as government, religion, media, entertainment, sports, academia, business, arts, and education, making up a global collaborative community of responsible men and women dedicated to world peace.

- Senior Membership is open to official national chapters of the Universal Peace Federation.
- Affiliate Organization Membership is open to international non-profit, non-governmental organizations.
- General Membership is open to Individuals who are appointed as Ambassadors for Peace by the UPF International Secretariat, Senior or Affiliate members.
- Associate Membership is open to non-profit organizations or to friends of UPF who are committed to working towards the purposes and goals of the Universal Peace Federation and who may participate occasionally in its activities.

There are several ways to join:
- Visit our website at www.upf.org to learn the many ways in which you can make the most of UPF membership.
- Call 1-914-631-1331, extension 124, and speak to a Membership Services Representative.
- Download and print a membership application and fax it to 1-914-631-1308 or mail it to Membership Services, UPF, 155 White Plains Road, Suite 222, Tarrytown, NY 10591, USA.

Contact Membership Services or visit our web site at www.upf.org to learn the many ways in which you can make the most of UPF membership.
A new culture of peace which transcends nations, oceans and continents will start in the Pacific rim. Please do not miss your chance to ride on the currents of heavenly fortune that will surge together during this important and sacred jubilee year.

— Dr. Sun Myung Moon

For details on all these and other publications and resources, please visit our website at www.upf.org

Recent UPF Publications

MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIATIVE: A 32-page booklet covering five years work to bring together the divided family of Abraham, with full-color photos. Learn about the efforts of more than 12,000 Ambassadors for Peace and their contributions in service and peacemaking.

ONE FAMILY UNDER GOD: A brief biography of UPF Founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and a new collection of historical photos. The complementary volume to the popular DVD of the same title.

UPF VIEWBOOK: a 48-page catalog with full-color photos covering the full range of UPF’s activities promoting world peace, the work of its twelve regional chapters, and including the latest GPF initiative, the Global Peace Festival.

VISION AND LEADERSHIP AT A TIME OF GLOBAL CRISIS: A collection of presentations given at UPF’s international conferences during 2007, with contributions from Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, Martin Luther King III, Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak and Ambassadors for Peace from 20 nations.

NEW WORLD ENCYCLOPEDIA: Articles from UPF’s encyclopedia project selected from more than 10,000 online entries at newworldencyclopedia.org.

And finally, did you know that UPF TODAY is now available in French, Spanish, Russian, and Korean as well as English?

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INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE
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