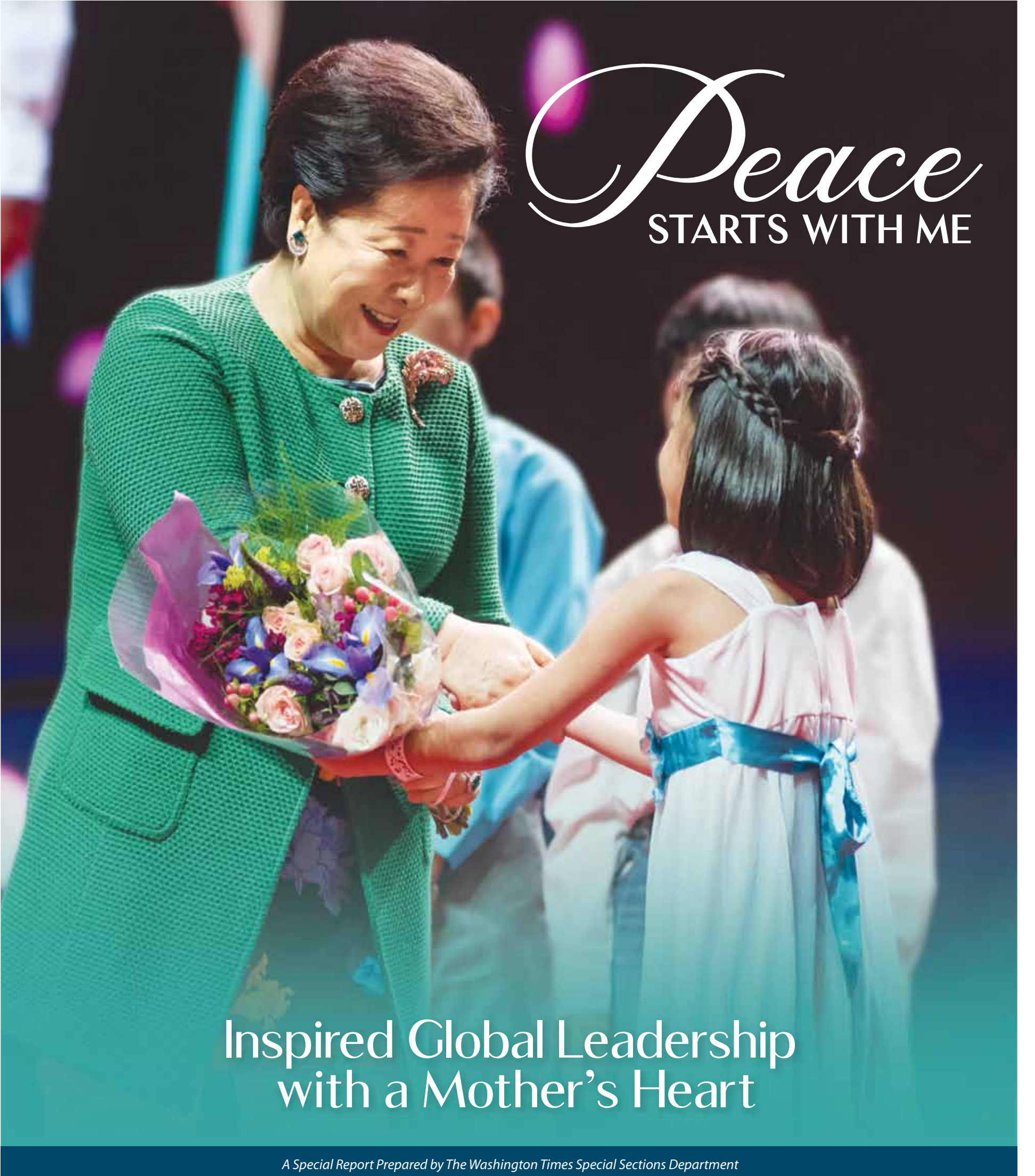




Peace

STARTS WITH ME

Inspired Global Leadership
with a Mother's Heart

A Special Report Prepared by The Washington Times Special Sections Department

‘Vision 2020’ seeks to deepen foundation for world peace

After the death of Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon in September 2012, his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, has been actively leading the movement they founded to achieve substantial gains through “Vision 2020.” This comprehensive and global initiative seeks to fulfill Rev. Moon’s hopes and dreams for humanity by the year 2020, which marks the Centennial of his birth.

Mrs. Moon has urged the worldwide community of the Family Federation of World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), along with numerous affiliated faith-based non-profit organizations, to take up the challenge to embody that dream, build upon it and turn it into a living reality that speaks to the aspirations of many. Within that dream are the keys to resolving the threat of extremist terrorism, nuclear conflict, protecting marriage and family as inviolable institutions and remediating threats to land, air and sea. This is the essence of Vision 2020, she said, adding that making one’s dreams real takes faith, hope, confidence — and a good plan.

A key element of Vision 2020 is to cultivate rapport with a multi-sector network of thought leaders in 43 nations, setting forth a stronger and innovative foundation to a rapidly expanding global peace movement. In an age of mass revolt against the Deep State, Political Correctness, nation-state leaders for life, and unelected global bureaucrats, the people of every continent hunger for freedom, faith and family — unchanging pillars of civilization. By educating in those focused areas, the



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

(Photo above) A vision continued: Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Mrs. Moon sat together in 2008 to review original manuscripts of his teachings for the Unification Movement.

(Photo below) Mother Moon spoke to young Unificationists at her home in Irvington, NY in July, 2017 about Vision 2020, based on the blueprint she and her husband developed over decades.



Universal Peace Federation, one of the lead affiliate organizations founded by the Rev. and Mrs. Moon, has invited each

country’s opinion leaders to consider how they can contribute to a peaceful world.

In the United States, every

local FFWPU community has been partnered with two other nations in a relationship of friendship and support,

including holding the “Marriage Blessing” ceremonies Rev. Moon and Mrs. Moon pioneered. The goal of these Vision 2020 partnerships is to create a principled, mutually-profitable relationship in which everyone benefits and grows. Their ultimate vision is to restore nations based on God-centered families.

The secret to achieving such a large vision is to digest the plan as a community, not as individuals or families, Mrs. Moon has recently said. Rev. Moon oversaw many hundreds of diverse projects in his lifetime, and it was impossible for one person to carry out the many directions that he gave, she said. However, each person can pick some aspect of his vision and, together with others, invest in it.

Thus, individuals can answer God’s call today by making their home a base camp for God and reaching out to friends and neighbors on behalf of peace, beyond the boundaries of ethnicity, nationality or creed. Engaging in meaningful relationships through shared passions with our neighbors and friends from around the world will make for a stronger global family, Mrs. Moon likes to describe as “one family under God.”

With the attitude that “we are in this together,” communities across the United States are partnering with both developing and developed nations around the world in mutually beneficial relationships that will impact the future. A shared concern, faith-based orientation and passion to build a better world will drive the commitment to learn from and work with each other to find the solutions all are looking for.

The Washington Times

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Hundreds of youth performed before an audience of 20,000 at Madison Square Garden for “Peace Starts with Me” rally.

Religious leaders call for American unity in the midst of division

By **BRADFORD RICHARDSON**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

NEW YORK | With America still on the mend from one of the most divisive presidential races in memory, religious leaders from around the world convened Saturday [July 15, 2017] in New York City to deliver a message of peace, unity and reconciliation.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, delivered the keynote address at the group’s “Peace Starts With Me” conference to a near-capacity Madison Square Garden.

She called on attendees to bring about “an ideal world of peace” by living “for the sake of others” and practicing “true love in your families, in your neighborhoods, in your tribes and in your nations.”

“Through freedom, peace, equality, unity and happiness, a world with all of these characteristics, this ideal world is not far away,” Mrs. Moon, who spoke in Korean, said through a translator.

The peace conference was attended by a joint delegation from Japan and South Korea, including representatives from Japan’s right-of-center Liberal Democratic Party and South Korea’s left-of-center Minjoo Party and centrist People’s Party.

Earlier in the week the Korean and Japanese delegates met with members of

the U.S. Congress to express bipartisan concern about China and the growing threat from South Korea. The conference was held at the Rayburn House Office Building and was jointly sponsored by the Washington Times Foundation and the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace of the Universal Peace Federation.

Rep. Yvette D. Clarke, New York Democrat, said peace can be achieved only when “the dignity of every individual person” is recognized.

“Regardless of political association or religious affiliation, I believe we must stand united as people of good faith to protect our sisters and brothers from violence and other forms of repression,” Ms. Clarke said in a brief address. “Where there is bigotry, hatred and injustice, there can be no peace.”

Mrs. Moon called on America, Japan and South Korea to “unite together as one” and become “lights of the world” for freedom and equality, just as they stood together against communism during the Cold War.

Representatives from the world’s major religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Judaism, also attended the peace conference. Pastor T.L. Barrett, Jr., of the Life Center Church in Chicago and Archbishop G. Augustus Stallings Jr., founder of the Imani Temple

African-American Catholic Congregation, were among the speakers.

Despite the gravity of the topic, the mood at the Garden was celebratory. A group of young adults, seated near the front and wearing neon-green shirts that stood out in the dark, periodically broke out into applause, cheers and dancing.

The conference also featured ground-shaking performances by Grammy Award-winning gospel singers Yolanda Adams and Bishop Hezekiah Walker.

They were accompanied by a boisterous 2,000-member choir, produced and directed by Emmy Award-winner A. Curtis Farrow, that filled several sections of seats near half-court and dressed in white robes with blue, red or yellow stoles.

Mrs. Moon is the widow of the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, a Korean businessman and religious leader who founded and led the Unification Church until his death in 2012.

In 1982 the Rev. Moon founded The Washington Times, which today is owned by a consortium of businessmen affiliated with the Unification Church.

Mrs. Moon continues to lead the religious movement and recently has been traveling the world in an attempt to unite the faith community.

Her trip to America comes as ideological fault lines exposed during the presidential race have continued to fester

six months into President Trump’s term.

The investigation into Russian meddling in the election has heightened with the revelation that Mr. Trump’s son, Donald Trump Jr., met with a Russian lawyer who promised compromising information on Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. The younger Mr. Trump insists the meeting was insignificant, but Democrats say it’s proof that the Trump campaign attempted to collude with a foreign adversary to swing the election.

House Democrats on Wednesday formally introduced articles of impeachment against the president, although the effort to remove Mr. Trump from office has not gained much traction.

Event materials for the peace conference invoked the words of Abraham Lincoln, who in his Second Inaugural Address implored his countrymen, “with malice toward none, with charity for all,” to work to secure a “lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

Mrs. Moon said America first “has to be saved for the world to be saved.”

“I hope that America will never forget its original mission and essence,” she said, “and I hope that you can become the courageous vanguard that will become the light of this world.”

This news article first published online on July 16, 2017.

‘We’re not waiting for change; we bring change’

Many thousands of people participated in activities around and during the 2017 Madison Square Garden event, which was organized by the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. The keynote remarks by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who founded the organization with her late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, set a precedent for each rallies on five continents.

On the morning of July 14, 2017, 80 young people, including CARP students, staff from Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP), the National Ministry Team and the leaders of the Hyojeong Youth and Young Adult weekend workshop, walked in groups around Madison Square Garden to pick up trash and clean up the general area. In Harlem, religious leaders of the African community gathered to discuss the event and affirm that humanity’s universal desire for peace is greater than our differences.

On July 15, in final preparation for the event, WFWP held a morning meeting at the Crystal Ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel. Some 120 women and men of different backgrounds, cultures and religions gathered for a dynamic message from former Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, Suzan Johnson Cook.

Tens of thousands of people arrived for the event, including many from communities representing Afghanistan, Pakistan and countries in Africa and the Caribbean.

The program embraced the diversity of its audience from the start, with Archbishop George Augustus Stallings, Jr., National Co-Chair of The American Clergy Leadership Conference co-emceeding the event with then-Family Federation USA President Dr. Michael Balcomb (currently the Regional Chairman for Family Federation Europe and Middle East).

Pastor Paula White-Cain took the stage and reminded the audience, “We’re not waiting for change; we bring change.”

Rep. Yvette D. Clarke, New York Democrat, noted that “What affects anyone directly affects us all indirectly.” She ultimately encouraged those in the audience to rededicate to the call to start and create peace on this earth.

Family Federation International Vice President Dr. Ki Hoon Kim spoke of the importance of unity in America, saying that Mrs. Moon “pointed out



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Hezekiah Walker, gospel composer and choral grandmaster leads the choir for an appreciative audience.



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke - (D-NY) commended Mother Moon and faith leaders calling for peace.

what our problem is today. More than anything else, we as Americans need God and True Parents for the sake of

God’s nation. We must come together and restore this country, America.”

Mrs. Moon, in her remarks, talked

about the history of God’s Providence, the world’s dire need for true parents who can guide us to live as true brothers and sisters, and how America can be a leader in restoring peace on earth, starting with each of us. She closed with a call to action, exhorting all to practice true love everywhere we go, shine our light to the world, and live for the sake of others. “God’s peaceful home on earth is not far away,” he said.

Also participating in the July 15 program were Pastor T.L. Barrett, the senior pastor of the Life Center Church of God in Christ in Chicago; the 3,000 Voice Choir led by A. Curtis Farrow; 200 Praise Dancers; and 600 youth and young adults from the Hyojeong weekend workshop. The program included powerful performances from Grammy-award winners Bishop Hezekiah Walker and Yolanda Adams, Shamira Mighty, and Family Federation’s Apple Heaven United, a conjunction of the original Apple Heaven band from Korea and Apple Heaven U.S.A.

This article is based on materials from the Family Federation of World Peace and Unification. For more information, please go to familyfed.org.

Seoul interfaith rally calls for reunification of Korean peninsula

By GUY TAYLOR

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

SEOUL — The risk is higher today than ever that threatening rhetoric between the U.S. and North Korea could spiral toward war, says a former CIA director who joined a massive rally here of religious leaders from around the world on Saturday in a call for peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

“The danger of harsh talk slipping suddenly into all out war is much greater today than it has ever been,” James Woolsey told the crowd of some 60,000 inside Seoul’s World Cup soccer stadium, just days after President Trump also embraced a softer-than-usual tone toward Pyongyang on his own visit to South Korea.

Mr. Woolsey’s appearance raised eyebrows at Saturday’s rally, a gathering that was unique for the sheer diversity of faiths represented, featuring prayers and speeches by prominent figures from Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Sikhism, Shintoism, Jainism and Bahaism.

The event was organized by the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. It was headlined with a speech from Hak Ja Han Moon, widow of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon and the leader of the Unification Church the Rev. Moon founded in 1954 — a year after war between North and South Korea was frozen by a U.S.-backed armistice.

“What do you hope to see?” Mrs. Moon asked the crowd. “It must be to see North and South Korea become one, and to live in that peaceful unified country.”

Her remarks drew a roar from those in the stands, an audience that included tens of thousands of young and old from across South Korea, who’d weathered the cool November temperatures to attend the rally at the vast outdoor stadium.

Mrs. Moon has led the Unification movement since a few years before the 2012 death of the Rev. Moon, whose ministry grew from a tiny, embattled church in his native South Korea to a global spiritual movement and an affiliated commercial empire comprising real estate, manufacturing and agricultural operations, and media properties, including The Washington Times.

Mr. Woolsey, 76, referenced the newspaper in his own remarks. “I’m here in part because The Washington Times’ hard hitting news and commentary is strengthening the resolve of America’s leaders to achieve peace and — God willing in time — freedom as well for the entire Korean Peninsula,” he said.

“We never forget that what divides North and South in this country is an



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon delivered the keynote address at the Global Rally for the Reunification of Korea at Seoul’s World Cup Stadium.



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Amb. James Woolsey (former CIA Director 1993-1996) told the interfaith audience they were sending the right message to the North Korean people.

artificial and arbitrary political wall of tyranny. All the men, women and children of the Korean Peninsula are one people, and they have been for some 4,000 years,” Mr. Woolsey said. “You have existed as one family since the dawn of recorded history, and you will continue as one family for millennia to come.”

While he headed the CIA during the Bill Clinton Administration from 1993 to 1995, Mr. Woolsey had a more recent influential role in Washington as an advisor to Mr. Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign.

His comments followed a stop Mr. Trump made to Seoul as part of the president’s ongoing tour of East-Asian nations. Nerves were on edge surrounding the visit by Mr. Trump, who made global headlines in August by threatening to “rain fire and fury like the world has never seen” on North Korea in response to Pyongyang’s increased missile tests and nuclear provocations.

However, the president took a far more nuanced approach in a speech to South Korea’s National Assembly on Wednesday,

drawing repeated applause by praising the freedom that has allowed South Korea to flourish politically and economically and criticizing the “horror” being inflicted on North Koreans by the authoritarian dictatorship ruling Pyongyang.

While Mr. Trump’s rhetoric was notably softer, his military resolve appears to have grown more shrewd. In what military officials describe as a clear warning to North Korea, Saturday saw U.S. and South Korean forces open their largest scale joint naval exercises in the region in nearly a decade.

Officials said the battle groups of the USS Ronald Reagan, the Theodore Roosevelt and the Nimitz are successively entering the exercises that will run until Tuesday and will involve 11 U.S. ships equipped with Aegis missile defense technology, as well as seven South Korean naval vessels, including two Aegis ships.

The drills mark the first time since a 2007 exercise near Guam that three U.S. carrier strike groups are operating together in the Western Pacific, according to the U.S. Navy’s 7th Fleet. Japan’s Maritime Self-Defense Force said the U.S. carriers will also participate in separate exercises with three Japanese destroyers on Sunday, according to The Associated Press.

The sudden military activity seemed to

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World faith leaders pray for peaceful reunification of Korea

The massive rally for the peaceful reunification of Korea, held in November 2017 in the Seoul World Cup Stadium, was intended to stand in the gap at a time when harsh rhetoric — and dangerous missiles — flew.

Remarkably, two months later, on Jan. 9, 2018, North Korean Chairman Kim Jong-un made an unexpected offer for his country to attend the XXIII Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang County, South Korea. As the world watched on Feb. 9, athletes representing North and South Korea marched in the Opening Ceremony under the Korean Unification Flag. Moreover, in the women's ice-hockey competition, North and South Koreans skated as a single, united Korean team.

Such cooperation seemed hopeless only seven months earlier.

On America's Independence Day, July 4, 2017, Kim Jong-un confirmed many people's worst fears: He launched an ICBM missile that appeared capable of reaching the U.S. mainland. On July 28, he did it again with a second successful ICBM launch.

On Aug. 8, 2017, President Donald Trump responded, saying, "North Korea best not make any more threats to the United States. They will be met with fire, fury and, frankly, power the likes of which this world has never seen before." That same day came news of a U.S. intelligence assessment that suggested North



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

More than 200 American faith leaders gathered at the Demilitarized Zone separating the Koreas to pray for peace.

Korea had produced a nuclear warhead small enough to be placed on a missile.

The prospect of open war between the United States and North Korea was now very real.

In the face of this tension, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, wife of the late Rev. Dr. Sun

Myung Moon, called to Archbishop G. Augustus Stallings Jr., the co-chairman of the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC), which she and Rev. Moon founded in 2000.

She asked Archbishop Stallings to bring 200 clergy from the United

States to Korea to pray for the peaceful resolution of this conflict and to bring encouragement and strength to the South Korean people and, in particular, religious leaders.

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KOREA

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underscore a feeling of urgency at Saturday's rally in Seoul, titled the "2017 Global Rally for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula."

The event coincided with a special Unification movement-backed "Interreligious Leadership Conference" being attended in the South Korean capital by more than 200 religious and political leaders, scholars and freedom advocates from more than 100 nations this week.

The conference has featured interfaith discussions and seminars. Several of those attending it spoke at Saturday's rally, including many Americans, such as Bishop Don D. Meares of the Evangel Cathedral in Upper Marlboro, MD.

"We ask for peace and not for the ravages of war between north and South Korea, as Korea is a nation flourishing with the Christian faith and all of God's people while demonstrating respect and cooperation with all faiths," Bishop Meares told the crowd. "We faith leaders from America and

every corner of the world join in support of South Korea. We proclaim that we commit ourselves to God's spirit of unity and prayer for the peaceful reunification of Korea."

Despite the sober nature of the remarks, the mood was festive inside the stadium. Jewish leaders could be seen exchanging ideas with Muslims. Buddhist and Hindu priests snacked on cookies in a V.I.P. area beneath the stands, where Christians of various denominations mingled with each other.

Many wore traditional religious outfits, including turbans and robes.

A particular high-point came when tens of thousands suddenly broke into dance to the thumping performance of American Gospel singer Bishop Hezekiah Walker's "Every Praise" by Bishop Walker and the joint choir of the American Clergy Leadership Conference. "The Muslims were dancing to it too!" someone was overheard saying joyously afterwards.

Some in attendance wondered aloud how the festivities might be perceived by the government in North Korea, where the freedom of religion does not exist.

"Religious and political leaders, public

opinion makers and social celebrities together from more than 100 countries, representing all major religions, came together here today to express wholehearted support for the peaceful reunification. That's a powerful message that the world community is sending to the two Koreas," said Alexandre Mansourov, who was there as part of a delegation of East Asia scholars and former U.S. officials.

"This spectacular event could put a lot of pressure on the North Korean authorities in the race for competitive legitimization on the peninsula," Mr. Mansourov said. "The North Koreans may feel hard pressed to put together an event as representative and powerful as this if they want to send their own message to convince the world that they have a better vision for Korean reunification."

Mr. Woolsey, meanwhile, embraced a faith-filled tone. "God is checking us to see if the men and women of God have the strength of faith to pull together to unite as one to rally together, not for ourselves or what we will get out of it, but unselfishly for the peace, prosperity and freedom of both South and North Korea," he said.

The reason heated rhetoric between the United States and North Korea is so dangerous today stems from the reality that "the speed at which information, misunderstandings and events move in the world of advanced technology is unprecedented," Mr. Woolsey said.

The former CIA director also expressed concern of the potential for a non-conventional attack by North Korea. "Now that the North has successfully put satellites into orbit and has successfully tested nuclear weapons, they have the technology needed to launch an Electromagnetic Pulse attack against the South or against Japan or against the U.S." he said. "Such an attack could destroy the attack area's electric grid, putting us instantly back into the 19th Century and leaving our cities with no way to communicate or to get food and water."

"The world came to Korea at one time to protect this country and the world has once again gathered together on this sacred ground," Mr. Woolsey said. "May God bless all of us and fulfill the dream of a unified and free Korean Peninsula."

This news article first published online on Nov. 11, 2017.

RALLY

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The highlight of this quickly arranged trip was a special march and prayer at Im-jin-gak at the Demilitarized Zone on the border of North and South Korea and the location of the “Freedom Bridge.” Bishop Dr. Cecil G. Riley of Freedom Hall Church of God in Brooklyn, New York, led the clergy in interfaith prayers. “We come here to pray that the divide between North and South Korea will come down. We pray this in faith, for the Lord says in II Chronicles 7:14 ‘If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land;’” he said.

When these pastors decided to go to Korea, some of them were asked not to go by their church members. But as they prayed at the DMZ, something deep in their hearts stirred for peace. They said they could feel God’s presence upon them and knew that a peaceful solution will prevail.

During this trip, Mrs. Moon, who is affectionately called “Mother Moon,” asked the clergy to return to Korea in November, and this time bring 200 clergy from North America and 200 more clergy from around the world.

On Nov. 11, 2017, these clergy — plus elected officials, members of parliament from over 80 countries, intelligence experts, scholars and thousands more — came together for the Global Rally for the Reunification of Korea.

The rally, which included a historic conference, was co-sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation, led by Dr. Thomas Walsh, and the American Clergy Leadership Conference, led by Archbishop G. Augustus Stallings, Jr. The primary focus was to bring peace between North and South Korea, and during the conference, the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development was created. Bishop Noel Jones, renowned throughout America and the world of the City of Refuge megachurch in Los Angeles, addressed clergy before the rally, saying that a new era of peace has dawned with Mrs. Moon’s efforts.

The rally, held at the Seoul World Cup Stadium, included entertainment, such as the large choir led by Minister A. Curtis Farrow and American gospel singer Bishop Hezekiah Walker.

But Prayers for peace filled the stadium like waves pounding on a beach. Ten prominent leaders from major religions offered their unique expressions of devotion, while Bishop Ki Hoon Kim offered the Family Church prayer, representing the unity of all religions.

Bishop Don Meares of Evangel Cathedral, a megachurch in suburban Maryland, prayed: “Our motive today is peace for Korea and the world ... We ask for peace and not the ravages of war between

North and South Korea. Those of us gathered here today are being called by God to finish the work of building peace and freedom that was begun by Reverend Dr. Moon.”

“It is altogether right and fitting that we undertake this task,” said Bishop Meares. “Our two countries have a bond of heart that was forged in the fires of the Korean War. The shared blood of Korea, the United States and the 15 other nations that was spilled into the soil of Korea in the fight against tyranny makes us brothers and sisters forever. The world came to Korea at one time to protect this country, and the world has once again gathered together on this sacred ground.”

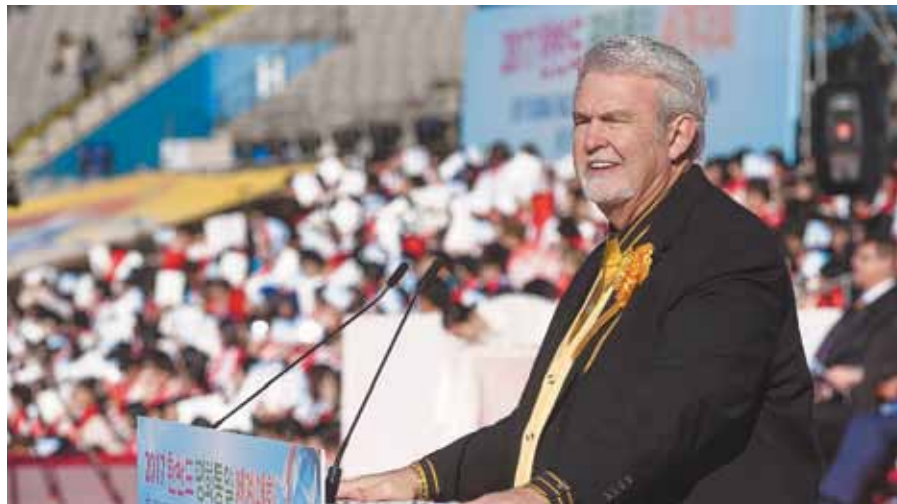


PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Bishop Don Meares, Senior Pastor of Evangel Cathedral in Maryland, called the Korean Peninsula “sacred ground.”

Archbishop Dr. Johannes Ndanga, the Presiding Bishop of the Apostolic Christian Council of Zimbabwe, thanked Mrs. Moon for her leadership in gathering world religious leaders to call for God’s intervention in the North Korean situation.

Rev. Dr. Marcus Braybrooke, President of the World Congress of Faiths, United Kingdom, who has been called the dean of interfaith historians, also commended the organizers and Mrs. Moon for all the efforts to encourage interfaith leadership for peace.

Pastor T.L. Barrett Jr., of Life Center Church of God in Christ in Chicago and one of the founders of the American Clergy Leadership Conference, offered these words: “Dear God, our Heavenly Father, we have so much to thank you for, not the least of which is True Mother, the Only Begotten Daughter, who has taken on the whole world as her congregation and as her children. We ask that you continue to bless her and her effort to bring the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula. We pray for peace particularly in Korea, but also throughout the whole world.”

Amb. James Woolsey, former director of the CIA from 1993-1995, spoke of the historical tensions in Korea. He noted the recent increase of hostile dialogue back and forth between the parties involved in Korea, particularly between North Korea

and the U.S., and “the danger of harsh talk slipping suddenly into all-out war is much greater today than it has ever been.”

He also talked about the work of Rev. and Mrs. Moon, recalling how Rev. Moon was such a famous, relentless and successful critic of communism in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, that Kim Il-sung once sent a squad of his elite forces into South Korea with instructions to assassinate Rev. Moon.

But despite knowing about that kind of treachery, Rev. and Mrs. Moon still went to North Korea in 1991 on a mission for peace — and Rev. Moon and Kim Il-sung literally embraced. This pivotal meeting — recounted in detail in Rev. Moon’s

2009 autobiography, “As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen” — underscored Rev. Moon’s remarks about how he was able to understand and embrace even someone who would seek to kill him.

During that dramatic event, Rev. Moon stood strong before high ranking North Korean leaders, saying that Korea must be united not by war but by peace. He also told them that God exists and is the author of peace, that if Kim Il-sung would allow freedom of religion and other human rights in his country, and would seek a more open and good-faith relationship with the South, that his efforts would be met with peace and generosity from the international community. Rev. and Mrs. Moon told Kim Il-sung that God would then bless North Korea.

As a result of this extraordinary visit, something touched Kim Il-sung’s heart, and from that time on, there was an increase in direct communication, to the degree that Kim Jong-il and Kim Jong-un have both shown open-heartedness to Rev. and Mrs. Moon.

The Nov. 11 rally concluded with a heartfelt message from Mrs. Moon that again called for the intervention of God in Korea and reconciliation and peace among its people.

Excerpts from Mrs. Moon’s remarks: “Today we have provided this event, which can deeply move Heaven at a time when this nation’s fate is at stake. Many

religious leaders and members of the clergy — around 400 — have come here from all continents and a 100 people came from America for the ACLC choir. I am truly very thankful for that.

“When we look at the world today, we see many problems. Though we try to overcome these problems, we cannot find answers through human efforts and strength alone. The future is bleak. Through the First World War and the Second World War, we saw cruel and horrible realities. That was why the U.N. was founded, with the determination that all nations must unite.

Seventy-two years have passed since the U.N.’s establishment. However, many difficult problems still need solving throughout the world. We stand in a maze, unable to unite. For the religions that lead the world today, it is the same. Especially in the Christian Civilization sphere, people say that if you believe in God and believe in Jesus you will go to a good place. But we must not stop with faith alone. We must think of how we can attend God, our Creator, in our families, societies, nations and the world.

“According to the Principle of Creation, Heaven had to protect the only daughter of God during her growth period. I was born in 1943 and Korea was liberated in 1945. Near the place I was born, centered on Pyongyang, there were many spiritual groups that believed the Lord would return in Pyongyang. However, with Korea’s liberation, the nation divided into north and south, based on the confrontation between democratic and communist thought. The North, under a united regime, was planning to invade the South. God would not have been able to fulfill his will if I stayed in that place, so Heaven had me go south. In 1950, the Korean War broke out. South Korea was not prepared to confront North Korea. Then like a miracle, Heaven mobilized the U.N. and laid the framework on this land for the True Parents to manifest.

“I wish to say this to all of you today: The figures or nations Heaven blesses must fulfill their responsibilities. Happiness grows the more we share it. You need to take responsibility for the blessings, which are not yours only, but which you can share with your neighbors, other people, and the world. Fallen humankind cannot directly go into God’s presence. The state in which we can receive the blessing through True Parents is that of being resurrected and reborn. That is why righteous leaders and members of the clergy have accepted the order and are putting into practice the true family movement in their churches around the world. This people’s wish for peaceful unification [of Korea], humankind’s wish for a united world, cannot go on eternally with human effort and thinking alone. Only when God’s providence unfolds centered on True Parents and under the circumstances of one attending God in one’s family and nation can Heaven’s blessing be eternal.”

This article is drawn from materials at the Universal Peace Federation and the American Clergy Leadership Conference. For more information, please visit upf.org and aclcnational.org.



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IN THE SPOTLIGHT.**



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More than 1,200 parliamentarians, tribal kings, and leaders of religious, women and youth organizations gathered from all Africa for Summit.

Senegal summit draws African leaders across continent

An unprecedented summit in Africa, aimed at revitalizing relationships and shared development among nations, was held earlier this year by organizations affiliated with the Universal Peace Federation (UPF).

The First Africa Summit for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development drew a multi-sector audience of 1,200 participants, representing more than 60 nations, to Dakar, Senegal, on Jan. 18-19, 2018.

Senegal's president, His Excellency Macky Sall, as well as UPF Co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon spoke at the event, which was built around the theme, "New Africa: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values."

Besides addressing the summit participants and meeting the UPF leadership and members from throughout the continent, Mrs. Moon visited Gorée Island, a small, car-free island off the coast of Dakar known for its infamous role in the Atlantic slave trade of the 15th to 19th centuries.

Mrs. Moon joined with African

spiritual leaders and FFWPU members on Jan. 19 to conduct an interfaith prayer for peace and reconciliation. She also generously donated a boat to be used for emergency medical evacuations.

In fulfillment of the summit's objectives toward promoting a "New Africa," the following issues and initiatives were introduced:

1. Interdependence. To strengthen bonds of solidarity and promote mutual development, knowledge and technology were shared through presentations on the New Village Movement (Sae-maeul) — which played a significant role in providing the vision to develop rural areas in Korea after the Korean War — and coffee production, utilizing research and technology from the Hawaiian Queen Coffee Farm, which was established by the founders of UPF.

2. Mutual prosperity. To promote prosperity and break down barriers among all nations, details of the International Highway Project, also known as the "Peace Road" project, were presented. Summit participants were presented with a memorandum of understanding to support the "Peace

Road" project.

3. Universal Values. To promote adoption of universally shared values, a character education program that features stories about moral challenges and has textbooks and teacher manuals, was presented. A memorandum of understanding was signed by the participants to support the UPF Character Education Program.

The African summit successfully launched the following three important peace initiatives, which contribute to peace and human development at the national and continental levels:

1. The International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP)
2. The Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD)
3. The International Association of Chiefs for Peace and Prosperity (IACPP)

The latter organization — for tribal chiefs — was created in recognition that "traditional rulers are the custodians of land, people and traditions," conference organizers said. Chiefs "are highly respected and honored among their people. By working together, centering on the universal principles of peace,

they play a critical role in protecting the institution of the family, social harmony as well as the purity of the environment." Among the IACPP's goals is a continental initiative to educate African chiefs about the UPF principles of peace and to promote healthy marriage and family relationships grounded in selfless love.

The 2018 Africa Summit concluded with presentations on how to (a) promote a united, interdependent and prosperous Africa; (b) advise leaders on the importance of universal values in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations; (c) promote cooperation among all religious and cultural traditions; (d) encourage mutual prosperity and peace in Africa through village-level development projects; and (e) utilize the power of art and culture as an instrument of peace.

Nearly 100 speakers, representing the nations of the continent including adjacent islands, addressed many of the challenges facing the African continent, with poor governance and corruption at the top of the list. Africa faces many

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PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Gorée Island Mayor Augustin Senghor and first Lady honored Mother Moon for bringing peace and healing to his region.

SENEGAL

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obstacles — poverty, terrorism, climate change, drug and human trafficking, cybercrime, environmental issues, unemployment especially among the youth, and more.

But everywhere there are signs of transformation: Foreign investment is increasing, the population is young, the lands are abundant in resources, and the people are receptive to new technologies and digital communications. According to the U.N., by the year 2100, four out of 10 people on Earth will be African. The world is also moving in the direction of Africa taking on a greater role as a bridge between Eastern and Western civilizations.

Finally, the 2018 Africa Summit was significant because the event featured a keynote address by the UPF founder, Mrs. Moon, who expressed her insights and hopes for Africa “to become the light of the world.”

Cheers from children living on the island of Gorée in Senegal reverberated when Mrs. Moon arrived on the island on Jan. 19. Gorée Mayor Austin Senghor greeted Mrs. Moon before taking her to the House of Slaves and its Door of No Return, a museum and memorial to the countless men, women and children who passed through Gorée and into slavery in the New World.

In her speech at the 2018 Africa



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon shared her vision for “Heavenly Africa” at the Africa Summit in Dakar, Senegal.

Summit, Mrs. Moon said, “The continent that I believe has suffered the most is the African continent.” She delivered a tearful prayer at the Gorée memorial for the ancestors of the African people who had endured this painful history, expressing hope that there will be a new, heavenly Africa free from suffering in the new future.

Mayor Senghor then presented the Gorée Pilgrim Award to Mrs. Moon. The award states: “Status of Pilgrim who is hereby authorized and appointed to serve as an Ambassador of Good Will for Gorée Island, for the promotion of its memory which testifies to such a tragedy as epitomized by slavery, for the teaching of universal values incarnated by Gorée Island and for the triumph of peace and tolerance ideals.”

Participants departed with a clearer understanding of the comprehensive, integrated holistic approach that comprises UPF toward fulfilling humankind’s desire for good governance and lasting peace.

Mrs. Moon and Dr. Yun Young Ho, secretary general of Family Federation of World Peace and Unification, announced after the event that Senegal will be the continental headquarters for UPF and its affiliated organizations, including Youth and Students for Peace and the International Peace Highway project.

This article is based on materials from the Family Federation of World Peace and Unification, with thanks to Dr. Robert Kittel and Dr. David Earle. For more information, please visit familyfed.org.

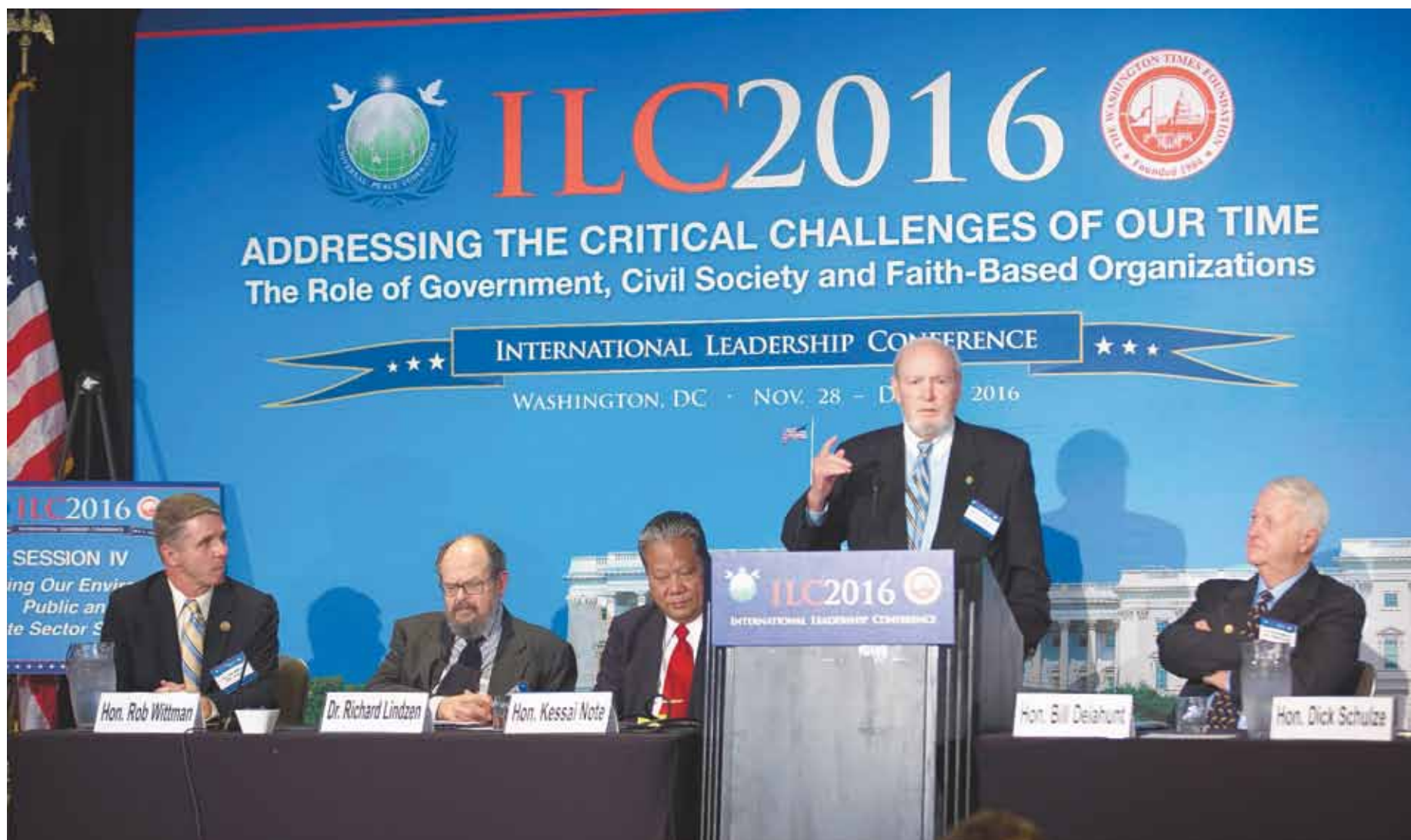


PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Former Member of Congress Dick Schulze (R-PA) addresses the ILC about conservation. Mr. Schulze was the co-founder of the Conservation Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives.

International Leadership Conferences around the globe

In an era of tectonic shifts in opinion about trade, migration, policing borders and moral issues, the Universal Peace Federation promoted balanced discussions on these concerns during 2016-2018 under the umbrella of the International Leadership Conferences (ILC).

In hundreds of locations around the world, experts from government service and civil society met at conferences to explore the themes of “Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values.”

The ILC conference in Seoul on Feb. 12, 2016 — convened under the theme “Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: The Role of Governments, Civil Society and Faith-Based Organizations” — captured the attention of scholars and lawmakers on five continents.

Subsequent conclaves in more than two dozen locations, including the United Kingdom, Nepal, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Zambia and Japan, emphasized the idea that a religious consensus built across lines of

faith and ethnicity can, indeed, nurture a moral consensus. Later that year, on Nov. 30, parliamentarians, opinion leaders and policy experts from 50 countries gathered at the U.S. Capitol.

UPF was established in 2005. According to the UPF website, the first ILC was held in 2007.

UPF’s lectures on “Principles of Peace and Nation-building Based on Family Values,” for example, drew rave reviews from lawmakers from several conflict-ravaged nations in Southeast Asia at a regional meeting in March 2017.

“I attended many international seminars before but never one like this. These teachings can help build better families and societies because they are logical and universal with the focus on nation-building and peace,” said Khlang Oudam, deputy director of the International Relations Department of the National Assembly of Cambodia. His sentiment was shared by many.

The topics of these gatherings go beyond the philosophical: At conferences in 2018 in Dakar, Senegal; Vienna,

Austria; and Sao Paulo, Brazil, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon promoted infrastructure goals related to the “Peace Road,” or international highway, linking Asia, Europe and Africa that she and her husband had broached in Seoul in 1981.

ILC in Seoul

At the launch of ILC’s current programs in Seoul on Feb. 12, 2016, more than 340 international delegates from 60 nations, including more than 140 current parliamentarians, 13 government ministers and other leading figures in religion, media, academia, civil society and government, gathered at the Lotte Hotel World.

The event was co-sponsored by UPF, The Washington Times and the Segye Ilbo newspaper.

A major part of the conference was the inauguration of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), held on Feb. 15, 2016, at the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea in Seoul. <https://www.upf.org/peace-and-security/>

international-association-of-parliamentarians-for-peace

Two years ahead of President Trump’s historic summit in Singapore with North Korea’s Chairman Kim Jong-un in Singapore, the ILC delegates participated in the launching of the Peace Road 2016 in support of the peaceful reunification of North and South Korea.

ILC in Kathmandu, Nepal

From the start of the ILC series, the level of interest among lawmakers was striking. The ILC in Kathmandu, Nepal, on July 28-31, 2016, welcomed the outgoing prime minister of Nepal and dignitaries from 29 nations. Among the 700 guests attending the ILC and the launching of the IAPP were 311 current members of parliament, cabinet ministers and heads of state or government from the Asian and Pacific regions.

ILC in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

West Africa’s branch of the IAPP

was launched August 8-10, 2016, with the backing of the highest levels of government. The event took place in the “sacred” hall of Burkina Faso’s National Assembly. A total of 294 people gathered for this welcoming event, including 58 current members of parliament from Burkina Faso and 64 current members of parliament from 23 other West African nations. The ILC benefitted from the high patronage of Burkina Faso President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré.

ILC in London

The third of a series of regional conferences launching the IAPP took place Sept. 7-9, 2016, in London.

With the theme, “Interregional Dialogue Addressing Critical Challenges: Europe, Eurasia, the Middle East and North Africa,” the ILC represented the official beginning of IAPP in these three regions. Thirty members of parliament from 15 nations attended the event and signed the proposal to establish an International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace in Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East.

ILC in San José, Costa Rica

The vice president of Costa Rica and dignitaries from Central America and the Caribbean attended the ILC in Costa Rica from Oct. 6-8, 2016. Among the 130 guests attending the conference — which established IAPP there — were a total of 78 parliamentarians and government officials from the region. Costa Rican Vice President Ana Helena Chacón attended the conference along with the president and vice president of the Legislative Assembly and the minister of foreign trade of Costa Rica.

ILC in Asuncion, Paraguay

Paraguay’s inauguration of the IAPP occurred during the ILC on Oct. 10-12, 2016, and drew 200 distinguished guests to an assembly at the National Congress of Paraguay in Asuncion. Respected speakers included Congresswoman Cynthia Elisabeth Tarrago Diaz and Rev. Shin Dong Mo, President of UPF South America.

ILC in Lusaka, Zambia

Lusaka Mayor Kalumba Wilson welcomed 300 distinguished guests to an ILC held on Nov. 5-7, 2016, at the Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia. The Hon. Geoffrey Lungwangwa, a Parliamentarian, praised the inauguration of the IAPP Resolution, signed by the participants. The Hon. Victoria Kalima, who served as Minister of Gender in Zambia until her death in 2018, welcomed the assembly. A Peace Road Rally of cyclists was held at the same time.



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

International Co-chairmen for IAPP, former Speaker of the House, Jose de Venecia with his wife, Mrs. de Venencia, along with former Cong. Dan Burton and his wife, Dr. Samia Burton presented Dr. Moon with an award.



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon spoke to dozens of Members of Congress and other leaders in the Kennedy Caucus Room, November 30, 2016.

ILC in Washington, D.C.

A concluding ILC happened Nov. 28-Dec. 1 in Washington, D.C.

Under the banner theme of “Achieving Global Cooperation on Peace, Security and Human Development,” this bipartisan conference gathered at the JW Marriott Hotel, two blocks from the White House and minutes from the U.S. Capitol.

Conference topics included: Principles and Best Practices in Leadership and Governance Securing Freedom of Conscience — a Universal Concern, Innovative Approaches to Global and Local Responses to Terrorism, Why Marriage and Family are Important for a Healthy and Stable Society; and Protecting Our Environment — Public and Private Sector Solutions, and Role of Media — Freedom and Responsibility

of the Press.

At the final event of the conference, Mrs. Moon gave her message to the assembly in the Kennedy Senate Caucus Room of the U.S. Capitol.

“We have seen many distressing incidents in the world; incidents that are indescribable, beyond words,” Mrs. Moon said.

“The world has come to a point at which the power of humans cannot solve their problems. Then, what must we do?” she asked. “We must begin a movement in which our families, our nations and the world attend God, the original owner of the universe.

“As part of Heaven’s historical providence to send the returning Lord, Heaven especially chose this nation. Two hundred years after its founding, the United States was suffering from

malaise that led to a period of extreme individualism and the breakdown of the family, problems with the youth and problems with drugs. I want to say this to all of you gathered here today: God originally had a dream to become the True Parent of humankind. Therefore, the ones that humankind absolutely needs today are the True Parents. Legislators and other leaders from around the world who have gathered here, I am saying that we must all become God’s true children. The one that shows you the right path to follow is the messiah.”

This article is based on materials from the Universal Peace Federation. For more information, please go to UPF.org.

New global network of Parliamentarians aim to resolve critical challenges

Since its inception in 2005, the Universal Peace Federation worked closely with parliamentarians from around the world with the goal of building a world of lasting peace. The launch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) in February 2016 represented a labor of love reaching back 15 years for co-founders Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Since the launch of IAPP, the project has attracted more than 3,000 incumbent Parliamentarians from 80 plus countries.

Their 2001 “Parliamentarians for Peace” initiative appointed tens of thousands of like-minded leaders as Ambassadors for Peace. This effort was also a point of focus of the 2005 Universal Peace Federation Inaugural Tour to 120 nations and assembled parliamentarians from 80 nations through diverse programs, all aimed at faith-based conflict resolution and peacemaking.

“As we know, our world faces a wide range of problems, including territorial disputes, religious and racial conflict, environmental degradation, climate change, violent extremism, poverty, hunger, nuclear proliferation and corruption,” according to the inaugural resolution for IAPP introduced by former Philippine House Speaker Jose de Venecia at the event in South Korea.

“As we gather in Seoul, we are especially mindful that the Korean peninsula remains divided. North Korea continues

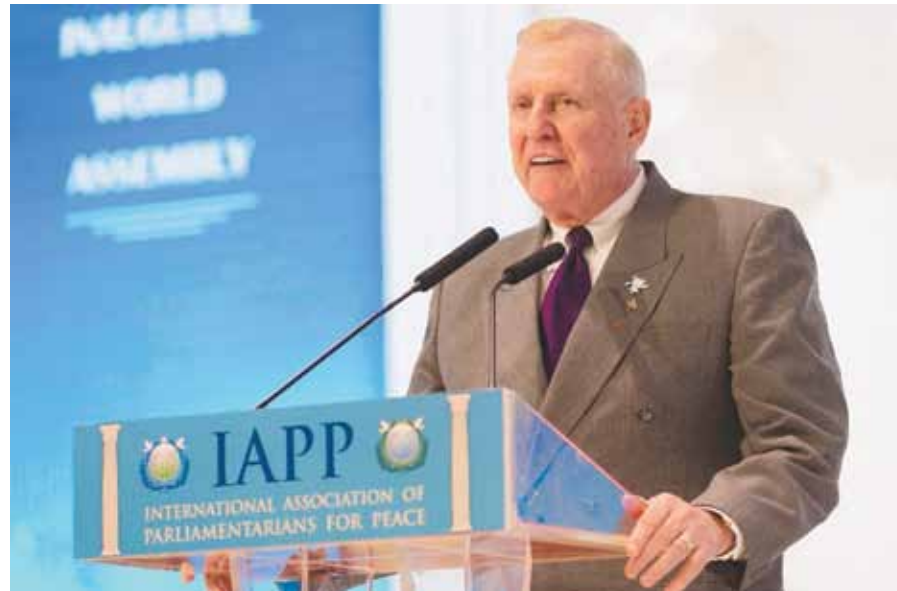


PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Former Cong. Dan Burton - (R-IN), International Co-chairman of IAPP, described the vision and goals for the new organization of lawmakers in February, 2017.

to develop its nuclear weapons program, raising serious concerns all over the world that military tensions are rising throughout Northeast Asia. Even now, 60 years after the Korean War, it remains impossible to communicate or freely travel between the two nations. It is time for the international community to wholeheartedly contribute to the realization of peace on the Korean Peninsula,” Mr. de Venecia said.

In the fall of 2016, IAPP held an opening ceremony in the U.S. Senate Russell

Office Building to highlight its efforts as a new, international network for global lawmakers to look for ways to advance peace and human development.

At the opening ceremony, held Nov. 30, 2016, Mrs. Moon addressed a distinguished group of over 300 leaders from 54 nations, including parliamentarians from around the world, members of the U.S. Congress, elected officials, and civic, religious, policy and NGO leaders.

Noting that IAPP is based on universal ethical and moral values rooted in

the family, Mrs. Moon called on world leaders to stand up as God’s agents of peace and take responsibility to build a peaceful, united world.

“All of you esteemed and beloved leaders who have gathered here, in particular, members of parliament from all over the world, your responsibility is great and important. You are extremely important, especially in this era, when a new providence is unfolding. God looks at each one of you as more than just one person. You are mediators and that is why God needs each one of you,” said Mrs. Moon.

In its recent World Summits held in 2017 and 2018, IAPP deployed a working strategy to have impact in conflict zones by taking the following steps:

- Work to establish bipartisan peace-building committees or caucuses in their legislature.
- Work across sectors and as groups to eradicate corruption.
- Find ways to network and work together with delegates from other nations.
- Support partnerships between religions and politics as a substantive means to target daily behavior for real transformation.

This article was prepared from materials from the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, a project of the Universal Peace Federation International. For more information, please visit <https://www.upf.org/peace-and-security/international-association-of-parliamentarians-for-peace>

Environment, religion dominate discussions in Brazil, Austria

Two major conferences — one in Brazil and the other in Austria — were convened by the Universal Peace Federation this year to generate discussions about shared challenges and how they could be addressed by international cooperation.

The Latin America Summit 2018, held in São Paulo, Brazil in August, brought together about 400 representatives from nearly 40 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well the United States, Korea, Japan and other Asian and European nations.

The theme of the summit was “Peace and Development in Latin America: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values.”

Issues discussed included climate

change, which is having a major impact on food security and even forcing migration in some parts of the world. Displaced people, political oppression and conflict, as well as challenges to democracy and democratic institutions, were discussed at the event, which ran from Aug. 2-5.

Dr. Julio María Sanguinetti Coirolo, Uruguay’s president from 1985-1990 and 1995-2000, recalled working with Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon decades ago and highlighted UPF’s many activities in Latin America.

Despite describing himself as an agnostic, Mr. Coirolo said he always recognized the important contributions that religious values bring to community life.

“You have a cause to fight for.

Continue this important work and continue to inspire hope,” he said in his introduction to Mrs. Moon, the co-founder of UPF and keynote speaker at the 2018 Latin America Summit.

Mrs. Moon declared “heaven’s love for this continent” and focused on issues concerning the environment. “The beautiful earth is now ailing,” she said, and as a result, many people are suffering the consequences.

UPF Chair Dr. Walsh observed that “UPF is guided and driven by a spiritual vision, and not merely by an abstract vision but by a vision that is embodied in the very person who will speak at this podium. It is not merely a humanistic vision, but a deeply spiritual and providential vision.”

Earlier in the year, a two-day International Leadership Conference, organized by UPF under the same banner theme, was held in Vienna at the historic Parkhotel Schoenborn on April 28-29. Some 250 participants from 45 nations gathered to talk about issues, including the massive migration from the Middle East and Africa to Central Europe.

Participants included members of parliament and political leaders, religious leaders and theologians, scholars and NGO representatives, chiefly from Europe and the Middle East. Panels included one with Jordanian and Lebanese scholars and political leaders,

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New interfaith association expands to South America

In recognition of South America's key role in the battle for the world's clean air and water, clergy and ethnic leaders at Universal Peace Federation's 2018 Brazil Summit signed on to a new association dedicated to prudent development: the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD). The global effort to coalesce religious leaders of major faith groups was launched in Seoul, Korea November 2017.

Qarashé Félix Díaz, president of the Consultative and Participative Council of Indigenous Peoples of the Argentine Republic, spoke of the worldview of the indigenous peoples he represents in his country, specifically the Qom community of South America's Chaco region.

"Our parents bequeathed us their love," he said. "That is why our existence is closely linked to our ancestral territories. These physical spaces are those that make their own balance in each living being. That is why you have peace with nature itself. There is life and hope for a better and more encouraging future for our future generations," he said.

He described his gods and the close relationship of his community with Mother Earth. "It is not good to leave a contaminated environment, because there will be no future," he said. For this purpose, he advocated a dialogue between peoples of different cultures.

Words of congratulations also were offered by Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, the international vice president and the regional chair for the United States and Canada,



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Dr. Moon added her signature to the founding resolution of IAPD in November, 2017.

of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), an organization that is affiliated with UPF. Also commending the start of the IAPD in Latin America were Cardinal Kelvin Felix, the Roman Catholic archbishop emeritus of Castries, Saint Lucia, and Rev. Hyun Young Lee, president of the Korea Religions Association.

Rev. Dr. Guillermo Osorno, minister of the Assembly of God and former president of the National Council of Pastors of Nicaragua, gave a presentation on the theme of being united in our desire for peace and development. "Our differences do not divide us, they enrich us,"

he said. Reverend Osorno said we should transcend our differences and find ways to work together for the common good of society. To achieve this goal, he emphasized the importance of "fluid communication," the ability to listen and the interaction of different creeds.

Imam Muhammed Shafiqul Islam, imam of the Masjid-As-Salaam Mosque of Jamaica, said that the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) traveled a lot and quickly because there were no immigration laws or other requirements to deal with. The world was not segregated or divided into migrants or refugees as it is today; we were all part

of the human race, he said. The imam spoke of the plight of refugees, of those who drown in the Mediterranean Sea, and urged leaders to work on prevention, not on symptoms. He regretted that "today there is no peace," but stated that "everyone wants to live in peace" and that "peace is our birthright."

The session concluded with the reading, by UPF Chair Dr. Thomas Walsh, of the inaugural declaration of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean. Dr. Walsh was accompanied by Rev. Dong Mo Shin and Dr. Charles Yang, the UPF regional directors of South America, and Central America and the Caribbean, respectively, and the speakers of the interreligious panel, who signed the declaration. All the summit participants were also invited to do the same.

The declaration begins with the statement: "We, participants of the Inaugural Assembly of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD), affirm the unique and essential role that religions are called to play in the realization of a world of lasting peace, a world in which people can live together in peace, mutual prosperity, interdependence, harmony and cooperation, as a family under God, in accordance with universal values."

This article is based on materials from the Universal Peace Federation. For more information, please go to UPF.org and Europe.UPF.org.

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as well as a prominent Danish church leader involved in the Middle East. Panelists offered their perspectives on the background of extremism in the region, on the factors behind conflicts and possible means of reconciliation.

Concurrent with the Conference on April 29 was a 10,000-person person "Peace Starts with Me" rally at the Vienna Stadthalle stadium. The Longfield Gospel Choir kicked off the program with several energetic and beautifully-arranged gospel numbers, including "Every Praise Is to Our God," which featured a group of equally energetic young Unificationist dancers who previously promoted the event in the streets of Vienna.

Former Austria Defense Minister Dr. Werner Fasslabend introduced Dr. Moon as the keynote speaker. He



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Roman Catholic Cardinal Kelvin Felix receives leadership award from Mother Moon and Dr. Sun Jin Moon, International President of FFWPU.

said that it is relatively easy to disturb peace but tough and time-consuming to restore and keep peace. Dr. Fasslabend

explained that we must first have inner peace as the basis to convince others to create peace among themselves,

among society, and among the world. He referred to the teachings of "the late, great Dr. Moon, and his wife" when he remarked that before anything, we must master ourselves.

Dr. Moon delivered the keynote address, encouraging everyone in attendance to become a shining light in Europe, helping to actualize a world of peace as one family under God.

On April 30, a group of the Conference and Rally organizers visited Austria's Mauthausen Concentration Camp where they conducted a special ceremony of prayer and remembrance of the 300,000 victims who perished there during World War II. Followers of Dr. Moon and religious leaders from 12 nations, including Russia, Poland and the Czech Republic, participated in intercessory prayer for the souls of the victims.

This article is based on materials from the Universal Peace Federation. For more information, please go to UPF.org and Europe.UPF.org.

Media fact-finding tours

The Washington Times has long been associated with media fact-finding tours — notably, in the late 1980s, its visits to Russia with the World Media Association led to historic meetings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and many key representatives of the Soviet Union.

In 2015, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who founded The Washington Times in 1982 with her late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, called for a renewed effort in media to strengthen of relations between the U.S., South Korea and Japan. The Washington Times, then organized regular fact-finding trips to South Korea and Japan, and welcomed congressmen from Japan and Korea to Washington, D.C., for educational programs and briefings on Capitol Hill.

In addition to the clear educational purposes of the fact-finding trips, these endeavors help further the mission of The Washington Times to report the truth and to express opinion with the core values of freedom, family, faith and service in mind.

In February 2015, a delegation of U.S. journalists participated in the “Prospects for Peace in Northeast Asia Conference for Media and Policy Leaders,” which was co-chaired by Washington Times President and CEO Larry Beasley and former Indiana Rep. Dan Burton.

Media briefings by North Korean defectors, intelligence experts and current and former elected officials give journalists first-hand knowledge of national security issues and threats to peace in Southeast Asia. Regular participants including U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill, the former U.S. Ambassador to Korea, Ambassador Joseph Detrani, former envoy to the Six-Party Talks, and Dr. Alexandre Mansourov, an international security expert at Georgetown University have added much insight for both the U.S. delegations and those met in Korea.

Based on the fact-finding tours, The Times has published Special Sections on the tensions and nuclear threat in North and South Korea, and gathered solutions from experts. In 2017, journalists and others were given that chance to meet the highest-level defector from North Korea, Thae Yong Ho.

Ambassador Hill was impressed with his candid and honest briefing. He shared the reality of secrecy surrounding Kim Jong-un’s schedule and the fact that the North Korean chairman has established full control in his country.

The 2017 transition in South Korea from President Pak and the Saenuri Party to the Minjoo Party was significant. At first it was unclear as to how well the government led by President Moon Jae-in would be able to work



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

The Washington Times fact-finding delegation toured Pan Mun Jom, the village that straddles the DMZ.



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

North Korea soldiers photographed the U.S. delegation during a military briefing at the DMZ.

with President Trump and his administration. However, The Times’ delegations have been impressed at the commitment of President Moon to work harmoniously with the U.S. — and his leadership had a lot to do with the success of his meetings with Chairman Kim and the meetings between President Trump and Chairman Kim.

The fact that this situation has changed from a “war footing” to a basis of dialogue is a very good thing. On January 10, 2018, Times’ White House Correspondent Dave Boyer wrote that President Moon recognized the contribution of President Trump in opening the door from war to dialogue and

possible peace. “It could be a result-ing work of the U.S.-led sanctions and pressure,” President Moon Jae-in told reporters. “I think President Trump deserves big credit for bringing about the inter-Korean talks.”

The Times was also pleased to find from the U.S. embassy briefing that the 2002 low point of the popularity of America with the Korean public has been reversed, and now America is seen as the most trusted ally. This news from the embassy was supported in February 2018 by the Asan Policy Institute for Policy Studies survey. One aspect of what The Times’ delegations learned is that the military cooperation

between U.S., Korea and Japan, with open sharing and coordination of information, has had a significant and beneficial impact on trust.

In May 2017, a Times fact-finding tour went to Japan. Times Executive Editor (now Editor-in-Chief) Christopher Dolan and Times Security Team Leader Guy Taylor accompanied the delegation for the off-the-record meetings with legislators, intelligence experts and media professionals. The development of friendship and trust through these meetings has immeasurable value for providing in-depth coverage of key issues in the U.S., Korea and Japan alliance.

New international prize honors ‘peacemakers’

The Sunhak Peace Prize was established to continue the legacy of the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and is given biannually in recognition of individuals and organizations that have made enduring contributions to help resolve worldwide suffering, conflict, poverty and threats to the environment.

The Prize was established in February 2013 by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon to honor — and advance — the peacemaking leadership of her late husband who passed in September 2012.

Named for both Rev. Moon and Mrs. Moon, the Prize carries a \$1 million grant and is awarded to individuals and organizations that have made enduring contributions to the noble ideal of peace by living for the sake of others.

Rev. and Mrs. Moon have devoted their lives to realizing “One Family Under God,” a global community founded on the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values, based on a love for humanity that transcends divisions of race, nationality, ideology and religion.

The Sunhak Peace Prize is committed to the ideal of peace, under the theme of “Making the World Better for Future Generations.” Its premise is that humankind is one universal family composed of successive generations, and as parents care for their children with unconditional love, those living today should create an environment of peace for future generations.

Toward this end, the Sunhak Peace Prize seeks to recognize exemplary accomplishments in three categories: sustainable human development, conflict resolution, and ecological conservation. Sustainable human development refers to solving problems of poverty, disease and ignorance, and respecting the human rights and dignity of every human being. Conflict resolution focuses on peacefully de-escalating and ending disagreements between people of differing religions, races and nationalities. Ecological conservation means finding solutions to climate change and depletion of natural resources and creating a sustainable balance between the natural and human worlds.

The theme for the first Sunhak Peace Prize was that “the ocean is essential to the future peace of humanity.”

The first two Sunhak Peace Prize laureates, announced in June 2015, were Kiribati President Anote Tong, who has raised international awareness of how island nations, such as Kiribati, are affected by rising sea levels, and Dr. M. Vijay Gupta, who has developed



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

Dr. Moon stands with the 2017 recipients of the Sunhak Peace Prize. Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, (left) and Dr. Gino Strada, second right. Dr. Hong Il-sik, stands at the far right.



PHOTO CREDIT: HSA-UWC

The award ceremony was celebrated by a collaborative performance of musical actor, Jaerim Choi, Kolleen Park and the Korean traditional arts school Little Angels.

fish-farming techniques for rural poor. The laureates split the \$1 million prize and were honored in a ceremony in Seoul, South Korea, in August 2015.

Dr. Gino Strada, founder of Emergency, an organization that provides medical and surgical care in Africa and the Middle East to civilian victims of war, and Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, founder of the Afghan Institute for Learning, which provides refugee-educational programs in Afghanistan, were the Sunhak recipients in 2017.

The 14-member Sunhak Peace Prize Committee and its chairman, Dr. Hong Il-sik, a former chancellor of Korea University, review more than 1,000 nominees and select the laureates. The committee also coordinates follow-up programs with the laureates are aimed at continuing their work to promote peace and human development.

This article is based on materials from the Universal Peace Federation. For more information, please go to UPF.org.



Peacemaking through marriage, youth activities

In recognition of its Founders' teaching that marriage and family are at the core of vibrant societies, the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, steadfastly has encouraged religious wedding ceremonies and marriage rededication events.

Since the passing of Rev. Sun Myung Moon in 2012, his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon has accelerated marriage ceremonies among clergy of all backgrounds. These events may appear to be merely ceremonial, but they underscore the Founders' deeply held conviction that salvation for all persons is finally achieved through couples harmonizing with each other over a lifetime and through a shared Divine Encounter.

The Grand Ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel, where Rev. Moon and Mrs. Moon spoke many times, was the setting for a landmark Marriage Blessing officiated and conducted by the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) on Saturday, August 18, 2018.

Faith leaders from 10 states participated, and congregants from multiple churches in the New York metro area joined in a joyful celebration uplifting marriage and family. Blessed celebrant clergy gave out holy wine and holy water, bringing alive True Parents' dream of Christianity extending God's lineage to humanity. More than 430 married couples received the Marriage Blessing, including couples who had received holy wine at their local church.

"The love of Jesus has no boundaries and it is with that understanding we believe God loves all beyond race, religion or national background. With that heart we have called upon esteemed leaders of important faith communities to share with us a prayerful display of unity. Water is a symbol of purity and life. Now, the faith leaders will come forward and prayerfully pour the water from their vases into a common vessel with the prayer that 'All May Be One.'"

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With these words Archbishop George Augustus Stallings Jr., National Co-Chairman of ACLC and Master of Ceremonies introduced an Interfaith Ceremony of Unity. Seven representatives of the Abrahamic faiths poured water into the common vessel, symbolizing the coming together of faith communities. Imam Dawud Assad (Islam), Rabbi Moise Abraham (Orthodox Judaism), Iman Souleiman Konate Masji Al-Aqsa, Father Lawrence Ventline (Roman Catholic), Rev. Rene Bellenas (Protestant), and Dr. Tanya Edwards (Pentecostal Family Church) were among those participating in a fitting opening to a Marriage Blessing celebrating oneness in God's love.

Imam Dawud Assad shared, "My wife and I were deeply moved by True Mother and the sacrifices she makes to bring the Marriage Blessing to all religions. As a Muslim, I went to the Middle East many times with ACLC. True Parents come from a Christian heritage, but they have become the loving parents of all faiths as their family. As the founder of the United States Association of Mosques, I want to say how deeply moved I am for the love that True Parents show for the family and for all faiths, especially Islam."

The Marriage-Blessing movement has been a key emphasis of the ACLC in all 50 states. Moreover, working closely with

the ACLC, the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) has held up-tempo rallies under the banner of Revival Starts with Me" (RSWM) in several cities. In August 2017, the Los Angeles chapter of CARP went to the City of Refuge Church, a local Christian megachurch under the guidance of Bishop Noel Jones, to perform the dance to "Mujogeon," a Korean word that means "Unconditionally."

On April 7, 2018, 300 people attended the second rally at the Los Angeles Family Church with the goal of making CARP's vision a reality.

Later that month in New York, UPF held the Together for Peace: World Youth Culture and Music Festival in support of youth empowerment and educating future global leaders. That event was co-sponsored by Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) and Sun International Peace Federation, with support from the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Unification Theological Seminary. The event featured musical and cultural performances and a panel discussion on "Elements for Peace," which covered family as the cornerstone for world peace; service; interfaith harmony and cooperation; role of women in establishing world peace; true character leadership; and good governance.

This article is drawn from materials of the Family Federation for World Peace. For more information, please visit Familyfed.org.



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