



# World Goodwill

## NEWSLETTER

2001 N° 3

A regular bulletin highlighting the energy of goodwill in world affairs

## CELEBRATING THE RHYTHMS OF SERVICE

IMAGINE YOU'RE sitting at home watching the news on TV. An item comes on about World Environment Day, with a series of reports from around the world on how people are celebrating it. Apparently, there are even events going on in your home town. As the pictures of colourful, imaginative events succeed one another, you might begin to ask yourself why you didn't know about this before, and where the idea came from. It's only at the end of the report that the newsreader mentions casually, as if you should have known all along, that the UN judged this year's celebrations a success.

There are serious points to be made from this little fantasy. First, it's doubtful that many people know that the United Nations has a calendar of days which are set aside to mark specific themes. And even fewer would be inclined to actively celebrate those days. Granted, some of them may be more suited to an international conference – for example, the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (16 September); or Africa Industrialisation Day (20 November). Yet all of the days address issues which should be of concern to all people of goodwill. The UN also marks weeks, years and decades as periods for focusing on themes. In 2001, for example, three annual themes are being highlighted: volunteers and volunteerism; dialogue among civilisations; and mobilisation against racism and related forms of intolerance.

We can become involved with such themes in a variety of ways. We could contact our national UN Information Centre to find out if there are events or ongoing campaigns

connected with the theme in question. We could get involved with the work of groups who permanently focus on one or other of these themes. And while every person may not have the time or opportunity to do these types of outer work, everyone can spare the time to support these themes with mind and heart. Simply being aware that they are happening, and sharing this with others, is a form of support which can help affect public opinion in the place we are. Reflective discussion with others can help us envision fresh ways of approaching some of the difficult challenges which these themes bring to light. And meditation on the themes can help clarify the mental atmosphere of humanity, letting all people see the challenges more clearly. Two initiatives which relate to ways of working in consciousness with issues of global concern, such as these annual themes, are mentioned in this edition: a new section on the Lucis Trust web site dealing with the Problems of Humanity; and a Meditation Initiative for the UN Days and Years.

One very important idea that the cycle of UN Days and Years highlights is the need for rhythm in service. When people first begin serving others, their awareness of how great the needs are, and how urgent, can lead them to make heroic efforts which, sooner or later, exhaust them; and in their burnt-out state, the fact that things do not seem to have changed much can be a source of despair. They might give up, thinking that their work has been for nothing. Yet an approach to service which honours the rhythmic nature of life has far more chance of being sustained over the long haul. This cyclic approach is

### *In this issue*

---

**SERVING IN  
TIME AND SPACE**

---

**SOLVING THE PROBLEMS  
OF HUMANITY**

---

**THE UNITED NATIONS  
DAYS & YEARS  
MEDITATION INITIATIVE**

---

**UNITED NATIONS YEARS  
– THEMES FOR 2001**

[www.worldgoodwill.org](http://www.worldgoodwill.org)

easy to forget in a world of restless busyness, whose creed is that everything (and everyone) should be available around the clock. It seems we are too ready to govern our time according to the unsleeping nature of machines. Yet the regular pulse of the seasons, the waxing and waning of the moon, the rising and setting of the sun – all point to the need for periods of activity to be interwoven with times for quiet reflection, allowing the roots of inspiration to be touched once more. This idea of rhythmic service is explored in an article below.

Good examples of recognising the value of rhythm in service are the five and ten year review events which the UN holds for its major international conferences. This year for example, a five-year review of the Habitat conference was held; and next year, there will be the ten-year anniversary event in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. These reviews can act as times for reflection on what has been achieved, and as opportunities to re-contact the original vision, to see if it can be deepened and enriched. In a recent address, the Chair of UNED Forum, Derek Osborn<sup>1</sup>, stressed the importance of the review process leading up to these events. The events themselves focus the hearts and

minds of those present, and many others around the world, on the specific challenges. They provide a high point of inspiration from which future actions can flow. Needless to say, the high promise of the vision attained at such events is seldom completely realised in the projected time-frame, as the pressures and frictions of circumstance get in the way. Yet this should be no cause for discouragement: a rhythmic, cyclic view of service understands that the end of one cycle of projected service marks the beginning of the next, allowing pause and reflection on where fresh effort is needed, and then movement onwards from a new point of departure. Such a view of service deliberately makes space for, and honours, the periods of review and reflection. When humanity as a whole can begin to recognise and celebrate the rhythms of life and of service more consciously, we can anticipate a swifter and more purposeful movement towards a better future for all.

1. Speaking at UNED Forum's national conference, *UK Preparations for Earth Summit 2002: The National and Global Dimensions*, 20 March 2001, London School of Economics. For further details, contact UNED Forum, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL. Tel: +44 (0)20 7839 1784; Fax +44 (0) 20 7930 5893; Email: [info@earthsummit2002.org](mailto:info@earthsummit2002.org); Web: [www.unedforum.org](http://www.unedforum.org), [www.earthsummit2002.org](http://www.earthsummit2002.org)

## Serving in Time and Space

Life moves in cycles and within a cycle there is a rhythm. Even a casual observation reveals an ebb and flow that characterises all life. The seasons follow in unremitting order, night undeviatingly follows day, the phases of the moon and the ebb and flow of the sea, all bear witness to great natural rhythms. We are made aware of the cosmic, cyclic aspect of life in one of the oldest prayers on record, the Gayatri, in the words, "O Thou... from Whom all things proceed, to Whom all things return..."

The word cycle is derived from the Greek *kyklos*, meaning circle or wheel and one definition of cycle is "an interval of time during which a sequence or a recurring succession of events or phenomena is completed". Rhythm is "a movement or fluctuation marked by the regular recurrence or natural flow of related elements or a measured motion or recurrent pattern".

We can view all life in terms of cause and effect, which is a rhythm, also. There is a relationship between rhythm and timing. In the writings of Alice Bailey we learn that the year can be divided into two major periods. First, there is 'the higher interlude', which occurs in the spring and early summer in the northern hemisphere, in which the highest level of spiritual energies impact the planet. These energies then work out in physical manifestation during 'the lower interlude' which occurs in the fall and winter. The great Buddhist festival of Wesak or Vaisakha in the East and the celebration of Easter in the West are two examples of

events that mark the higher spiritual interlude of the year. Christmas, Hanukkah, and the Hindu festival of Divali are three examples marking the lower interlude.

Even the breath of life falls into inhalation (corresponding to the higher interlude) and exhalation (lower interlude). This cycle of higher and lower interludes of energy transmission takes place on a lesser scale each month with the full and new moon. The high point of inflowing energies takes place during the period of the full moon and the lower interlude takes place during the time of the new moon, when these energies then work out.

We are emerging from the Piscean Age into the Age of Aquarius. A great two thousand-year cycle is ending and we stand poised for the new paradigm to take shape. One important, emerging pattern concerns group activity. In a way undreamed of just a century ago, global communication and access have given birth to an emerging global mindset and concerns. We have moved from an age characterised by individualism to one of growing group awareness and endeavour as we begin to identify with each other. Increasingly, we recognise our common humanity and what affects one group is of interest to all. No discipline or area of interest is untouched by a growing awareness of interrelatedness and linkages.

Groups defined by a common desire to serve a cause have proliferated and the numbers continue to grow. Some

groups are narrowly focused, but increasing numbers of people are becoming more inclusive in their outlook. The formation of the United Nations marked a milestone in humanity's efforts to think, plan and work for the common good of the global whole.

We have learned that a group is much stronger than an individual. Working in unison, with a common vision and dedication, even a small group can accomplish much. It has been said that the secret of successful group work lies in a unity of purpose that transcends divisions that may take place on the level of outer mundane activity. It is also a truism that goodwill is the most potent and abundant energy available to humanity and that all problems are solvable when there is enough goodwill present but no lasting solution to human problems can take place without this energy.

## Units of Service

Groups seeking to serve can develop along many lines: cultural, political, scientific, religious, philosophical, psychological or financial. Several important facts are emerging about group work:

- Practical, effective service by groups is today the most important single factor in humanity's effort to reach a new dimension of living and create a new and more just civilization.
- New modes and techniques of living and serving are emerging from these group efforts.
- These experiments in group service are laying the necessary foundation for the new civilization by seeking to meet world need through local enterprise.

Groups with a dedication to serving the needs of humanity who are characterised by a spirit of cooperation, group love and group consciousness are growing in number and their skill in action is increasing. These are the groups who are creating the new global civilisation. Increasingly, there is an understanding that a group need not be together in the same physical location, but can be a subjective affiliation. Modern communications facilitate these kinds of groups.

A number of serving groups have come into being whose direct stimulus and impetus have arisen from a desire to work with the emerging science of energies and an

awareness of the potency of rhythmic endeavour, especially in group meditation. Among these groups are those who choose to work with World Goodwill and Triangles. These groups have been termed 'units of service', and they exist all over the world. A unit of service has been defined as "a serving group, large or small, of men and women of goodwill who come together under the stimulation of a shared vision in order to cooperate in some form of practical action toward the establishment of right human relations." There are a number of units of service who have dedicated themselves to the promotion of goodwill through group meditation and/or study in rhythmic cycles. A Goodwill Meditation is available from World Goodwill for use each Wednesday, to help condition the subjective atmosphere of the planet and create a climate for constructive change by working with the energies of light, love and goodwill.

Other groups meet at least once a month to work in harmony with the lunar cycle of higher and lower interludes through meditation to help build a united channel along which light, love and power can flow to the human family. Group meditation is also done for the Reappearance of the World Teacher, and for the Redemption of Money. These meditation groups are not seeking either personal or group growth or betterment but are acting as selfless agents for the betterment of the planet. Many of these units of service also work with the Great Invocation and seek to distribute this great world prayer as a means of promoting goodwill and alignment with those spiritual energies that can transform the planet into a lighted centre.

We are still learning the lessons of cooperation and effective group effort. Competition and separateness still define much of human thinking and activity. Even as we are in the elementary stages of group work, so we are in the early stages of learning about energy cycles, rhythm and timing. We have only lately discovered that all is energy and this discovery will in time enable us not only to transform our worldview but also our behaviour towards all life. The pioneering group efforts taking place now to work with energies, cycles, and rhythms are growing and will eventually transform our world. All life pulses to a rhythm and the more we understand these great patterns and learn to work in harmony with them, the more effective our work and lives will be.

## Solving the Problems of Humanity

We are pleased to announce a new section on the Lucis Trust web-site ([www.lucistrust.org](http://www.lucistrust.org)), based on the study course *Problems of Humanity*. It features a selection of passages from the printed study course, along with discussion forums for sharing thoughts and envisioning pathways towards solution. The new pages currently feature an introduction to this study course, and there are six main areas which will be highlighted in future: the relationship between capital and labour; youth and education; minorities; international unity; the psychological renewal of nations; and churches and organised religions. Each of these issues must be imaginatively and intelligently resolved if humanity is to create a better world for all.

Why is this section needed? A few phrases from the introductory page point to the answer:

...signs of turbulence, uncertainty and change on a global scale

...the nation-state, the free market and traditional religions showing unmistakable signs of strain

...the new realities of a profoundly inter-connected world

...a lack of vision

...a spiritual crisis.

How should we respond to this situation? Three thoughts:

...mobilise humanity's deepest resources of heart and mind, to respond to an era of growing integration and synthesis

...set aside, once and for all, the barriers in consciousness which have until now separated nationalities, religions, and social classes from one another

...learn to work for one humanity.

This is the challenge of establishing right human relationships between peoples and nations throughout the world, a challenge of paramount concern to all people of goodwill. We hope the passages from the study course can give pointers to understanding the basic problems underlying the present world crisis, and stimulate intelligent, compassionate debate within the discussion forums, so contributing to the creation of the enlightened public opinion that can turn the tide of world events. We invite all our readers to join in this experiment.

## GOODWILL IS...the heart-beat of service.

### The United Nations Days & Years Meditation Initiative

This Initiative by the group **Intuition in Service** offers meditations and other resources for use by individuals and groups in support of both the UN Days and the themes for the UN Year. They point out that the UN Calendar of Days, Weeks, Years and Decades forms a well established global rhythm of service, as it directs attention to the key issues of our times with such Days as World Health Day, and year-long themes such as in the International Year of Volunteers. Recognising that there is obviously need for more outer work to be done on the issues highlighted, it is suggested that there is equally need for additional work in meditation to inspire, uplift and nourish that outer effort. This can be one of the most creative contributions to the building of human unity.

Millions of people of goodwill in all parts of the world include some form of subjective activity – meditation, prayer, reflection – in their pattern of life. They are invited to make this Initiative part of their rhythm of inner work.

Meditation or prayer to support the UN Days and Years can be done as a regular service or from time to time, and meditations are offered by the Initiative for this purpose. Groups are also encouraged to use the meditations during some of their meetings, particularly if the meetings are on or near one of the UN Days. For further information, go to the Initiative's web site at: [www.UNmeditation.org](http://www.UNmeditation.org), or email [info@UNmeditation.org](mailto:info@UNmeditation.org). Printed materials are also available from the following addresses: PO Box 58, Paekakariki, New Zealand; The Studio, Friarsgate, Jedburgh, Scotland, UK, TD8 6BN; 991 Hiawatha Place, Ashland, OR, USA, 97520.

### United Nations Years – Themes for 2001

**International Year of Volunteers.** This year has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Volunteers (IYV). The aim is to celebrate and highlight the significant role of volunteers throughout the world, and to engage people in volunteer activity. The UN explains: "IYV presents a global opportunity to make a difference by highlighting the valuable contributions volunteers make to every nation. Since each culture expresses volunteerism in a unique way, the focus of IYV will vary from country to country. The Year is for everyone." The IYV website ([www.iyv.org](http://www.iyv.org)) features information on such topics as how you can get involved in this initiative and news of volunteer work globally. Also included are personal accounts of volunteers from around the world.

Over 100 national committees have been set up all over the world to focus on the four objectives of the year: *recognition, facilitation, networking* and *promotion* of volunteering. Some of the ideas pivotal to these objectives include:

#### *Recognition: Enforcing Human Values*

- recognising volunteer work at all levels
- strengthening civil society participation through volunteering
- enhancing spiritual values through action

#### *Facilitation: Volunteering as a Social Force*

- sustaining social development through volunteering
- mobilising governments to support volunteer initiatives
- creating new partnerships between private sector, the United Nations, governing bodies and civil society

#### *Networking: Linking People Worldwide*

- networking at both local and global levels
- using and developing information technology

#### *Promotion: Broadening Volunteer Opportunities*

- promoting human rights and humanitarian volunteering
- enhancing North-South, South-South and East-West volunteering

Between the 18-21 November of this year, an International Symposium on Volunteering (ISV) will be held in Geneva, Switzerland. ISV "will enable those involved in volunteerism to evaluate experiences and lessons learned throughout the IYV 2001. Delegates from around the globe will present their volunteer projects. These presentations will form the basis for a Symposium Report, which will be published (book/CD-ROM), and serve as an important contribution to the report to be presented to the United Nations General Assembly in 2002 on the IYV 2001. Furthermore, the

Symposium will allow all parties involved to prepare and coordinate future volunteer action." Contact: International Symposium on Volunteering, PO Box 755, 1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland. Tel: +41 22 800 14 36; Fax: +41 22 800 14 37; Email: [symposium@icvolunteers.org](mailto:symposium@icvolunteers.org); Web: [www.icvolunteers.org/symposium.html](http://www.icvolunteers.org/symposium.html)

**United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilisations, 2001.** In 1998, the UN General Assembly declared 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue Among Civilisations in response to a proposal made by the president of Iran which was supported by a large number of countries. The first major international event, jointly organised by UNESCO and the UN, took place during a Round Table held in the UN in New York in September 2000, and it is reported that the ideas put forward "show that a dialogue among civilisations is an essential stage in the process of founding a form of human development that is both sustainable and equitable, humanising globalisation and laying the bases of an enduring peace." At the International Conference of "Dialogue among Asian Civilisations: Present Diversity and Future Convergence", held in Tehran during February 2001, the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, included in his message to the conference the idea that dialogue based upon the diversity of cultures can lead to "co-operation over conflict [and] can provide signposts to unity..." He also put forward the concept that, in relation to faith, heritage and cultural identity, "we can love what we are without hating what we are not"; thus cultural diversity can be celebrated rather than considered as a threat.

Publicity for the Year of Dialogue includes exhibits, seminars, a film festival and other events as well as twelve 60-second public service announcements which highlight the life of an "unsung hero of dialogue", people who have reached across the divide and "kept alive the flame of humanity". There is also an interactive web site available in six official languages which encourages and facilitates worldwide dialogue. For further information, visit [www.un.org/Dialogue](http://www.un.org/Dialogue) and [www.unesco.org/dialogue2001](http://www.unesco.org/dialogue2001)

The International Centre for Dialogue Among Civilisations (ICDAC), founded in 1999, is situated in Iran and has a comprehensive organisational structure. The objectives of ICDAC include: the promotion of dialogue and a culture of peaceful co-existence among civilisations and cultures on an international and national scale; helping to establish and broaden international civil society through cultural interaction among nations; the strengthening of spiritual moral and religious culture; the conduct of research on the significance and possible interpretations of Dialogue Among Civilisations and releasing the findings nationally and internationally. For details, contact: International Centre for Dialogue Among Civilizations, 91 Lavasani (Farmanieh) St., Tehran 19375, Iran. Tel: (+ 98 21) 2206637; Fax: (+ 98 21) 2210482; Email: [icdac@dialoguecentre.org](mailto:icdac@dialoguecentre.org); Web: [www.dialoguecentre.org](http://www.dialoguecentre.org)

**The International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.** In 1997, the General Assembly decided to hold the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR). The World

Conference, which will be held in Durban, South Africa from 31 August to 7 September 2001, will be a landmark in the struggle to eradicate all forms of racism. "This World Conference has the potential to be among the most significant gatherings at the start of this century," the Secretary-General of the Conference and High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, stated. "It can be more: it can shape and embody the spirit of the new century, based on the shared conviction that we are all members of one human family." She noted that it would require "a strong follow-up mechanism to examine whether Governments have delivered on their promises made", and herself promised to make it a conference of actions not just words. For further information, see [www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/) and [www.un.org/WCAR/](http://www.un.org/WCAR/)

In 1998, the General Assembly decided to proclaim 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. This observance helps to draw world attention to the objectives of the Conference and to provide a momentum for further political commitment to the elimination of racism and racial discrimination.

Prior to the WCAR, two complementary meetings are scheduled: an NGO Forum (28 August to 1 September 2001) at the Kingsmead Cricket Stadium; and a Youth Summit (26 to 27 August 2001) at the Holiday Inn, Durban, Elangeni. The Youth Summit starts on 26 August with an opening ceremony, and enters into full swing on 27 August. It is organised by the South African Youth Task Team and the International Youth Committee. The objectives of the Youth Summit are three-fold: to create a global network of youth organisations and leaders committed to combating racism; to influence the political decision-making process; and to serve as a catalyst for a series of action-oriented initiatives at the international, regional and the national level that fully involve youth in anti-racism activities.

Racial discrimination and ethnic violence are major challenges facing our interdependent world. The sense of separateness, which lies at the heart of racist thinking, is a divisive force, fuelling conflicts and tensions everywhere. The World Conference in Durban is an effort to concentrate global thinking on the new approaches needed to respond to the challenge of racism in the 21st century.

For too long, diversity has been treated as threat rather than gift. And too often that threat has been expressed in racial contempt and conflict, in exclusion, discrimination and intolerance. The time has come to celebrate this diversity as a treasure, which enriches the idea and the practice of human unity.

A statement of vision, *Tolerance and Diversity – A Vision for the 21st Century*, has been prepared for the World Conference. It is available online at [www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/00-vision.html](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/racism/00-vision.html). In the words of Mary Robinson, it is "a statement of our shared vision for an inclusive, non-racial and non-discriminatory world and an invitation to governments and societies to take stock at the beginning of this new millennium of how we are progressing in achieving these ideals."

## The Great Invocation

This Invocation or Prayer does not belong to any person or group, but to all Humanity. The beauty and the strength of this Invocation lies in its simplicity, and in its expression of certain central truths which all people, innately and normally, accept – the truth of the existence of a basic Intelligence to Whom we vaguely give the name of God; the truth that behind all outer seeming, the motivating power of the universe is Love; the truth that a great Individuality came to earth, called by Christians, the Christ, and embodied that love so that we could understand; the truth that both love and intelligence are effects of what is called the Will of God; and finally the self-evident truth that only through humanity itself can the Divine Plan work out. Recently, the original wording has been adapted, to facilitate an even wider distribution. For a more detailed explanation of the reasons for adaptation, please either consult the article *The Great Invocation: Service in a Changing World*, in newsletter issue no.4 for 2000, or write to World Goodwill at the address below.

THE GREAT INVOCATION	(adapted version)
From the point of Light within the Mind of God Let light stream forth into the minds of men. Let Light descend on Earth.	From the point of Light within the Mind of God Let light stream forth into human minds. Let Light descend on Earth.
From the point of Love within the Heart of God Let love stream forth into the hearts of men. May Christ return to Earth.	From the point of Love within the Heart of God Let love stream forth into human hearts. May the Coming One return to Earth.
From the centre where the Will of God is known Let purpose guide the little wills of men – The purpose which the Masters know and serve.	From the centre where the Will of God is known Let purpose guide all little human wills – The purpose which the Masters know and serve.
From the centre which we call the race of men Let the Plan of Love and Light work out And may it seal the door where evil dwells.	From the centre which we call the human race Let the Plan of Love and Light work out And may it seal the door where evil dwells.
Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.	Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

Card copies for distribution are available in a number of languages. The Great Invocation is currently translated into approximately 70 languages (see our website at [www.worldgoodwill.org](http://www.worldgoodwill.org) for a selection of translations). Offers to help in both these areas are always appreciated.

### HELPING TO BUILD RIGHT HUMAN RELATIONS

ISSN 0818-4984

World Goodwill is an international movement helping to mobilise the energy of goodwill and to build right human relations. It was established in 1932 as a service activity of the Lucis Trust. The Lucis Trust is a registered educational charity in Great Britain. In the USA it is a non-profit tax-exempt educational corporation, and in Switzerland it is registered as a non-profit association. WORLD GOODWILL is recognised by the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organisation and is represented at regular briefing sessions at UN Headquarters. The Lucis Trust is on the Roster of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The World Goodwill Newsletter is published three times a year. Multiple copies for distribution are available on request. The newsletter is also available in: Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish.

[www.worldgoodwill.org](http://www.worldgoodwill.org) is the address for World Goodwill on the Internet. The newsletter is available on this site.

World Goodwill relies solely on donations to maintain its work. The newsletter is distributed free of charge to make it as widely available as possible, but donations are always needed for this service, and are much appreciated.

3 Whitehall Court  
Suite 54  
London SW1A 2EF  
UK

1 Rue de Varembe (3è)  
Case Postale 31  
1211 Geneva 20  
SWITZERLAND

120 Wall Street  
24th Floor  
New York NY10005  
USA