

WORLD GOODWILL: The Cycle of Conferences

Parliament of the World's Religions

Project date: November 14th – December 9th 2009

November 2009

Dear Co-workers,

The Cycle of Conferences is placing a short but dynamic focus on *The Parliament of the World's Religions*, which takes place December 3 – 9 in Melbourne. www.parliamentofreligions.org

This event overlaps the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen by two days, December 7 – 18, which we will also be focusing as part of the *Earth Stewardship* project. We leave co-workers free to decide how best to divide their time and energy between these two important events. Common ground between the two projects/conferences is to be found in one of the visions of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions; namely that “the Earth and all life are cherished, protected, healed and restored”.

The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions addresses a growing recognition of the oneness of the human family and gives rise to a common hope: that peoples from different backgrounds will work together to resolve the many problems facing humanity.

We might reasonably expect religion to be leading the way in this, for religion is based on the vision of the spiritual nature of the human being. All religious teachings affirm the moral responsibility to demonstrate qualities of love, compassion and discrimination. And in today's interdependent world, religious leaders increasingly speak of the need to give these qualities expression on a universal scale. The factions in different faiths that fiercely resist efforts to become more inclusive tend to attract the publicity. Yet of far more significance for the future is that growing movement amongst believers of all faiths to explore and enhance the points of unity between the religions.

The vision of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions does just this, working for a peaceful and sustainable world in which:

- “Religious and spiritual communities live in harmony and contribute to a better world from their riches of wisdom and compassion
- Religious and cultural fears and hatreds are replaced with understanding and respect
- People everywhere come to know and care for their neighbours
- The richness of human and religious diversity is woven into the fabric of communal, civil, societal and global life
- The world's most powerful and influential institutions move beyond narrow self-interest to realize common good
- The Earth and all life are cherished, protected, healed and restored
- All people commit to living out their highest values and aspirations.”

At this particular time, dialogue between adherents of different faiths is challenging believers to find within themselves the capacity to listen to the wisdom of other faiths, knowing that what they find will

not weaken their own faith, but, rather, will enrich it. Dialogue, at the deepest level, is leading to a transformation of faith. For true dialogue necessarily involves an openness to the other and a willingness to seek out new levels of meaning within the established traditions of one's own religious beliefs.

Because it is centred on listening and on being open to fresh insights, the Parliament of the World's Religions is helping to create a new intuitive body of religious thought and understanding. It is surely creating a pathway in consciousness between the human kingdom and the higher, transcendent kingdoms, a pathway down which revelation may flow.

We look forward to linking up together and projecting the transformative energy of the will-to-good into the heart of this gathering. Our work together on this project begins immediately and lasts until the end of the event on December 9.

A visualisation form and some "Thoughts for Pondering" are attached.

In lighted group companionship,

Headquarters Group
Cycle of Conferences