

# World Goodwill

## NEWSLETTER



A QUARTERLY BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTING THE ENERGY OF GOODWILL IN WORLD AFFAIRS

1999 N°3

## INVOKING THE SPIRIT OF PEACE

*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God*

*Matthew, 5.9*

PEACE, LIKE LOVE, is a word to which it is not easy to assign a clear meaning. Perhaps this is not surprising since, like love, it is a major principle which every person of goodwill aspires to express, but is only able to do so with varying degrees of success. Different shades of meaning then emerge, clouding the vision of the originating source. There has been a tendency in the past to define it in negative terms, as the absence of conflict. But as our understanding increases, we can begin to recognise that this is as mistaken as defining goodwill passively. Rather, peace is now coming to be seen as a dynamic equilibrium sustained among a diversity of conscious perspectives. Implicit in such a vision of peace is the idea that all parties to it are in open relationship with one another, engaged in a quest for mutual understanding.

Other concepts linked with peace are stillness and silence. Again, it is easy – for the Western mind at least – to see these concepts as implying passivity and inactivity. Yet as meditation shows, an outer silence and stillness can conceal an intense inner focus which is actively maintained. It is only from this inner tension that a true peace can flow out into daily life. This recognition was evident in the title of the conference, *World Peace – Inner Peace*, which took place just outside the Hague from the 18th to the 20th of May this year. World Goodwill was fortunate to attend this inspiring event, and a report is included in this newsletter. Also featured is *The Hague Appeal for Peace and Justice*, the large civil society conference which preceded *World Peace – Inner Peace* by only a few days.

A large number of initiatives are concerned

with fostering peace through silent meditation. A few examples include the daily Silent Minute Prayer for Peace<sup>1</sup>, first started during World War II and recently re-energised; Time for Peace<sup>2</sup>, another daily link-up, which sponsors a two minute silence, among other peacebuilding initiatives; and the Sound of Silence<sup>3</sup>, which asks people to focus in silence on World Peace for nine minutes, from 11.51pm on December 31st 1999 to midnight, January 1st 2000. As this last initiative shows, the occasion of the new millennium is also proving a potent focus for peacemakers. There is One Day in Peace<sup>4</sup>, which is a worldwide campaign for a global ceasefire on January 1st 2000; the 72 Hours of global interfaith peacebuilding from December 31st 1999 to January 1st proposed by the United Religions Initiative<sup>5</sup>; and First Week<sup>6</sup>, which has as its objective a global ceasefire for the first week of 2000. And of course the year 2000 itself has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Thanksgiving and of the Culture of Peace; and from 2001 to 2010 is the UN Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.

In the writings of Alice Bailey, a simple logical sequence is given, which will seem obvious to any person of goodwill: goodwill leads to right human relations, which leads to peace on

*See over*

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Earth. Simple to say, difficult to implement, as millennia of human conflict testify. But we are living in a time when the principle of goodwill is being visibly expressed on a worldwide scale – a time when right human relations is coming to the fore. We may rightly hope that this global shift in consciousness is ushering in an era of true peace, an era in which the glory of the One will be free to shine forth in all human actions.

I. Enquiries to: Dorothy H. Forster, The Silent Minute, PO Box 6046, London W2 6GB, UK. Fax: +44-(0)171-262-9625  
Email: [silent.minute@innocent.com](mailto:silent.minute@innocent.com)  
Web: [www.rowex4.freemove.co.uk/silent/](http://www.rowex4.freemove.co.uk/silent/)

2. For further information, see the Time for Peace website at [www.timeforpeace.org](http://www.timeforpeace.org)
3. For further information, see the Sound of Silence website at [www.lightnet.co.uk](http://www.lightnet.co.uk)
4. See the One Day in Peace website at [www.oneday.net](http://www.oneday.net) for further information.
5. Further details were given in this newsletter, 1999 No.1.
6. For more information, contact: First Week Foundation, PO Box 1147, 3001 Drammen, NORWAY. Tel: +47-3289-4228 Fax: +47-3289-4224  
Email: [first.week@bu.telia.no](mailto:first.week@bu.telia.no) Web: [www.first-week.com](http://www.first-week.com)

**GOODWILL IS...** ...the active principle of peace. It brings into right and balanced relation diverse perspectives, whether individual, group or national.

## WORLD PEACE – INNER PEACE CONFERENCE

On the Monday evening, before the official opening of the conference, people gathered outside the Leeuwenhorst congress centre for a wonderful fire-lighting ceremony held by the fire keepers of the indigenous people of North America. Two flames met and blended in the fire – the flame struck from the flint of the fire-lighter, and the perpetual flame tended by the Brigidine Nuns of Kildare, brought with them from Ireland. A powerful prayer was given, which spoke of the oneness of all life, of the essential need to include the spirit in all peace work, and of the central importance of women<sup>1</sup>. This prayer set the keynote of the conference, as these themes continued to resonate throughout the talks, presentations and workshops of the following days. The sacred fire was kept burning for the duration of the conference, early morning ceremonies were held there, and all were invited to visit the fire and offer prayers. Another focus for spirit was the centre of silence, a room kept open for 24 hours a day throughout the conference, where participants could go for individual or group prayer and meditation. On Thursday morning, a goodwill meditation was held there.

The official opening was a highly impressive event. Participants were invited to enter in silence into the main conference room, a large circular chamber with beautiful stained glass windows. On the stage, sitting in a semi-circle, were servers of long standing, the wisdom elders. The silence in the chamber was tangible. After some time, a number of the elders came forward one by

one and spoke words of inspiration. Among them was Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, who asked for prayers for his daughter, about to give birth in Israel; and for Israel itself, which had made a new beginning in electing a new President, perhaps heralding the birth of peace. Beautiful harp music was played by Therese Schroeder-Sheker.

Then, the Brigidine Nuns entered in solemn procession, bearing the flame in a lantern. Before them walked Noírin Ni Riain, singing to the accompaniment of a drone. They circled the assembled company before placing the lantern beside the rocks and flowers which already adorned the stage. The participants stood and joined Noírin Ni Riain in singing “Turn back the streams of war” to the four cardinal directions, and to the source, the inner source of peace.

There followed four speeches from distinguished servers, each representing one of the four cardinal directions, in which the inner, spiritual dimension of peace was emphasised.

### Symbols of peace

The focalizer for this session, and for the conference as a whole, Manec van der Lugt, asked all to bear four symbols in mind during the conference: the circle, indicating wholeness and unity; the spiral, which leads inwards towards the source, outwards in ever-widening fields of service, and onwards into the evolving future; silence, the inner space where inspiration from on high

can occur; and sound, the agent of creative change. To these four symbols might be added the sacred fire, burning both outwardly, and in the hearts of all present; and the equal-armed cross. This cross, woven of humble reeds, was also borne by the Brigidine Nuns; and at the Earth Banquet on the Wednesday evening, participants were asked to interweave their dreams for a better future with this cross, as one was made and then presented to Manec van der Lugt. Crosses were then distributed to all. In the writings of Alice Bailey, the equal-armed cross is linked with both service and discipleship, themes which were implicit in all that took place.

How to convey the rich diversity of ideas, intuitions and feelings which blossomed over the three days of the conference, a diversity which was synthesised by a common purpose? Perhaps through another symbol which surrounded everyone, the stained glass window: as the pure light of the sun is transformed into a glowing tapestry of colour by many shards of glass, so the one purpose of aiding humanity to reach inner and outer peace shone through the hearts and minds of all participants, creating a dynamic pattern of overlapping and mutually reinforcing service initiatives.<sup>2</sup> So the Will of God, the will-to-good, is transformed into its human expression, goodwill, through its many human instruments.

Describing this in full detail is impossible within the space of a short report.<sup>3</sup> What follows, therefore, is an attempt to capture the spirit of the gathering – a spirit which held a strong note of goodwill throughout – by a collage of brief observations.

## A spiritual sustainability

Katherine Cheshire of the Hopi People spoke of the need to re-evaluate our expectations of technology, indeed to spiritualise technology, using it not in the service of greed, producing conflict, but in the peaceful service of spirit. A related idea came from the biologist Rupert Sheldrake: that it was time for the religious imagination to expand to fill the vast spaces of the macrocosm and the microcosm which science had opened up. The former ambassador, Hon. Edy Korthals Altes, expressed his belief that spirituality is the key to sustainability, and that it must work out in practical terms. He referred to a growing dialogue between the European Union (EU) and the Religions of Europe, and presented a copy of his new book, *Heart and Soul for Europe*<sup>4</sup> to Dr. Robert Muller, in recognition of his tireless quest for peace.

In a working session dedicated to building a culture of peace, two important new initiatives for children were featured: “Just.Ice for Kids” aims at their mental and emotional needs by using the Internet to help them

to understand their rights and how these relate to the legal world; and “Bamboo Child” seeks to meet their physical needs by addressing their right to adequate housing and income through the use of bamboo.

Before a meditation to close the afternoon, the deep need for peace in the world was starkly underlined by the stories told by women from the island of Bougainville, where armed conflict had arisen because of greed and injustice.

The second day was dedicated to examining the legacy of the revolutionary economist and thinker, E.F. Schumacher, and was guided by his daughter-in-law, Diana Schumacher. As on the first day, music and silence initiated proceedings on a high spiritual note, and the sister of Queen Beatrix of Holland, Irene van Lippe-Biesterfeld, led participants through a meditation on re-connecting with Mother Earth.

## Linking globally

Diana Schumacher invited everyone to see differences between individuals and cultures as a gift, as an invitation to extend ourselves. Among the ideas raised by speakers in this session were the need for reverence for the Earth to complement the scientific and utilitarian perspectives on ecology; the danger that the prevailing philosophy guiding human action seems to be “I buy, therefore I am”, based on the illusory notion of a permanent, independent self; and the importance of compassionate action at all times, so that even when confronting oppressors, one’s compassionate thought must be the reduction of their ignorance. This last thought came from Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne, founder of the Sarvodaya movement of Sri Lanka, a spiritual, nonviolent, grassroots model of economic and political development, inspired by Gandhi and by Buddhist thought. He also observed that, as long as technology focuses upon meeting basic needs, Sarvodaya’s experience suggested that spirituality and technology can be combined harmoniously. As a closing thought for the morning, Diana Schumacher enjoined those present not only to think globally but also to *link* globally with other servers.

In the afternoon, a videotaped address from the economic and social futurist Hazel Henderson was shown, in which she referred to a number of hopeful trends, including a new TV network, WETV, originating from Canada, which focuses on positive initiatives; and her proposal for a UN Security Insurance Agency, which would redefine national security in terms not of nationally owned weapons, but of insurance policies from the UN which would be used to fund a standing humanitarian peacekeeping force.

Following this, participants were able to join one of seven concurrent working sessions on: Peacekeeping/

Peacebuilding; Environmental Law; Sustainable Communities; Appropriate Technology; The New Economics; Scientists for Social Responsibility; and Education for Peace and Non-Violence. The aim of these sessions was to share inspiration, ideas and experiences in order to bring forward concrete proposals for UNESCO's "Building Cultures of Peace".<sup>5</sup>

After a break, participants then had the opportunity to become involved in concurrent working groups and workshops. With the theme of "Goodwill is Love In Action", World Goodwill shared space with the Essene Network International; and a small, focused group shared thoughts on the spiritual approach of the Essenes to inner peace, and on goodwill as a major energising principle of all who seek to serve humanity, the new group of world servers. In a concluding plenary session, many recommendations were passed on to the conference organisers for inclusion in the final conference documents. The afternoon ended with a meditation.

## **Intimacy with all beings**

The final day opened once more in silence; followed by an explanation of the Silent Minute Prayer for Peace by Baroness Edmee di Pauli. The keynote address for the day was given by the biologist Jane Goodall, who identified four reasons for hope: the flexibility of the human brain; the resilience of nature; the terrific energy of young people when they are awakened to environmental issues; and the indomitable nature of the human spirit. She spoke about the international educational programme "Roots and Shoots" which she has set up for young people, which enables them to undertake projects suited to their local circumstances to help animals and the environment.

Following a short break, a number of presenters shared thoughts on their diverse service projects. Among the many presenters, Joan Russow gave details of a "Citizen's Public Trust Treaty", intended to urge governments to comply fully with the international treaties and declarations to which they have already signed up; participants were invited to sign this treaty. Patricia Mische of Global Education Associates (GEA) reflected that if we choose to live responsibly, we can then tell governments that these are the laws in our hearts and minds which we wish to see codified. Fred Matser shared his idea of peace parks built in areas of former conflict, where people are enabled to move through their grief to mutual forgiveness.

Eirwen Harbottle, of the International Centre for Peacebuilding, related the extraordinary success story of "Peace Child", a children's musical, and described another of Peace Child International's major projects, the creation of books by young people, explaining important UN initiatives. Barbara

Soros urged participants to become intimate with all beings, and particularly with the obstacles to peace. Ilse Moser and Elly Pradervand presented the concept of "A Serving Nation", which is described as "an emerging community of consciousness dedicated to putting world service above all else and to encouraging the search for universal peace and justice with integrity". Feedback on this initiative was invited.

## **Hope for a peaceful future**

At the closing session, the chairs were placed in a circle. The ceremony began with songs from children of all ages from the International School of Amsterdam, dressed in the costumes of many different cultures. The younger children participated in drawing a large circle of peace in green and blue.

Robert Muller gave the closing address, in which he wondered what conditions would be like for those born in the near future who might attend the peace conference in 2099. He mentioned as two causes for hope the charter on indigenous people which the UN is considering adopting, and the proposal to create a world council for indigenous people. In a letter to Queen Beatrix of Holland, he has proposed that new ministries for peace, for hope, and for the future should be established. For him, the two key recommendations were: to be a spiritual person; and to network with others, sharing spiritual ideas, for networking is the new form of freedom, the new democracy. In closing, he said that, just as the Buddha and the Christ came down to teach us, we must now lift ourselves up towards them. So the conference ended as it began, on a high spiritual note of aspiration towards right human relations and peace on earth.

As a fitting epilogue to the conference, its energy was carried to the Sufi temple near Katwijk, one of the most sacred places of the Netherlands. Here a Universal Peace Celebration took place. Subsequently, the energy was borne to the Peace Palace in the Hague, the seat of the International Court of Justice or World Court, where recommendations were made. On Saturday, a day-long conference on peace education sustained the note of World Peace – Inner Peace. And finally, on Saturday evening, the closing ceremony began with a Peace Walk led by Gandhian leader, Mansukh Patel, to St. Laurens Church, which was bombed during the war and is now, like the phoenix, a symbol of spiritual re-birth. Over 1500 people gathered to welcome the Peace Flame. Seven times all the people spontaneously raised their hands in celebration and blessing, as water, symbolically honouring all religions and traditions, was poured into the baptismal font. Many of those present found this Peace Celebration with prayers and songs a soul stirring experience, and it brought to a beautiful



## THE GREAT INVOCATION

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 Love within the Heart of God  
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.  
May Christ 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 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.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

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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.

Alice Bailey

NOTE: In some translations of the Great Invocation the name by which the Coming One is known in different religions is used, e.g. the Lord Maitreya, Krishna, the Imam Mahdi or the Messiah.

end a special period of reflection upon the true meaning of peace. From this potent inner focus, the work of the new group of world servers in their striving for peace on every level will undoubtedly be energised.

1. This thought echoes the idea that we are moving into a new age in which the feminine polarity will increasingly enter into the lives of both men and women. This energy is the energy of receptivity – as distinct from the masculine energy of outward moving action – and it is when we exercise the receptive mode of acceptance and appreciation of our inherent differences that the foundations for peace can be laid. As an expansion of these ideas, World Goodwill has available a *Commentary, Women Into The Future*.

2. Indeed, in a video presentation on Thursday, Dr. Margaret Fulton

of the Women's World Summit Foundation presented just such a pattern as a means of transcending rigidly organised hierarchies of authority.

3. A fuller report of the conference proceedings and recommendations, will be available from the Davidhuis Foundation, and a video is being prepared. Davidhuis Foundation, Slotlaan 31, 3062 PL Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Tel: +31-10-4123442 Fax: +31-10-4149271 Email: davidhuis@hetnet.nl. Radio for Peace International were also broadcasting from the conference.

4. This new book, subtitled "An Essay on Spiritual Renewal", is published by Van Gorcum publishers, PO Box 43, NL-9400 AA Assen, The Netherlands. Tel: +31-592-379556 Fax: +31-592-379552 Email: assen@vgorcum.nl Web: www.vgorcum.nl

5. See note 3.

*SO IT WILL COME TO PASS that when women participate fully and equally in the affairs of the world, when they enter confidently and capably the great arena of law and politics, war will cease; for women will be the obstacle and hindrance to it.*

*‘Abdu’l-Bahá*

## THE HAGUE APPEAL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Like a discordant contrapuntal melody, world events this past May sounded in sharp counterpoint to one another as *The Hague Appeal for Peace and Justice*, and two similar peace gatherings, were conducted while conflicts raged elsewhere in the world. The challenge issuing from *The Hague Appeal*: "As the global community moves into the 21st century, let this be the first century without

war," echoes the words of the world prayer, *The Great Invocation*, "Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth."

These words of *The Great Invocation* are familiar to many yet how, it might be asked, does one help in the effort to "Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth"? Gatherings such as *The Hague Appeal for Peace*

*and Justice* exemplify at least a portion of the answer to this question. This conference, as one of the cycle of conferences which have characterised the latter half of the twentieth century, has helped in the process of acquainting humanity with itself in all its diversity and starting us on the path toward peace which is not a cause but an effect: the effect of right human relations. For when people of goodwill meet and confer on possible solutions to world problems they are literally invoking light and love and power in the form of illumination, inspiration and ideas. Concentrated, focused thought is a form of meditation. When many minds are similarly focused, a sort of organic group meditation takes place. The invocatory power of such a combined mental effort is great. Solutions can emerge through the voicing of ideas and the sharing of thoughts.

“Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I” the Christ said two thousand years ago, the idea being that the united aspiration of a group of people carries added power beyond that of the individual working alone. “Spiritual guidance” is the key idea here. For one need not be a traditional Christian nor a member of any religion to receive the higher spiritual energies which are available to all who seek them. The word ‘spiritual’ does not belong to the world religions. At its heart, spirituality is essentially right human relations, the promotion of goodwill and the establishing of a true peace on earth. The spiritually minded, enlightened worker for the betterment of humanity understands that much progress can be made working in civil society through currently available means, while simultaneously envisioning new methods, such as initiatives coming out of gatherings like *The Hague Appeal*. This was not a conference limited to experts, world leaders or noted intellectuals: according to the organizers<sup>1</sup> of *The Hague Appeal*, it was designed to include people from all over the globe.

## A culture of peace

The over-arching goal of *The Hague Appeal* was the launching of the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century<sup>2</sup> which conference organizers describe as “the compilation of the most important ‘next steps’ that must be taken, with strategies for implementation, to delegitimize war and create a culture of peace.” (from the Hague Appeal Conference Registration booklet). On the closing day of the Conference, the Agenda was formally presented to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasani of Bangladesh and Queen Noor of Jordan.

In holding the conference during the month of May in The Hague, the organizers sought to invoke the memory of the First Hague International Peace

Conference held there one hundred years ago. It was the first conference held not to conclude or settle a war but to focus on peace-building and conflict prevention. “The growth of institutions and values that protect civilians, regulate conflict, and ensure human security can be traced to the last century’s efforts in The Hague”, according to organizers of the current conference. Designed to be an opportunity to assess the next steps in the peace process and to agree on shared strategic goals for implementation, *The Hague Appeal* seeks the on-going involvement of three key sectors of society: ordinary people, i.e. “civil society”, international organizations, and governments. As *Hague Appeal* President Cora Weiss explained in her opening address, “We are here to consider new ways of thinking and new ways of doing for the century. We call that the new diplomacy. If we come away from this gathering knowing that in every school in the world, starting in the year 2000, every child will learn not only reading, writing, and arithmetic but also reconciliation, or peace education, we will know that we have taken a giant step towards guaranteeing a future safe for our children and our children’s children.”

## Wisdom and statesmanship

As a first step in this process, *The Hague Appeal* launched an exploration along four thematic lines: disarmament, conflict resolution/transformation, international humanitarian and human rights law and the roots of war/culture of peace. Underpinning the thoughtful exploration of these themes at the conference was a commitment to making the work of civil society more effective in several concrete ways including: the provision of technical assistance and support to initiatives stemming from *The Hague Appeal*’s four themes; the catalyzing and support of follow-up activities that seek to impact policy and result in practical outcomes; the forging of a dynamic, cross-sectoral coalition of the broad range of non-governmental organizations that will work toward the abolition of war and a culture of peace; and the generation of positive media attention toward peace efforts undertaken by civil society and by governments.

It was reported that nearly 10,000 people from over 100 countries and 1,000 organizations attended the conference. Affirming the reality of constructive approaches and the increasing responsibility of the individual in implementing them, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in his closing address, “Disputes can be resolved peacefully. Wars can be ended. Even better, they can be prevented. It takes wisdom and statesmanship on the part of political leaders. It takes patient and skillful diplomacy. But, perhaps most important of all, it requires a deep change in civil society – the development of a culture

in which statesmen and diplomats alike know what is expected of them. They have to know that, in the eyes of their fellow citizens, the ultimate crime is not to give away some real or imaginary national interest. The ultimate crime is to miss the chance for peace, and so condemn your people to the unutterable misery of war.” Addresses were also presented by world figures such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO and land mines activist, Jody Williams, and statements of support came in from leaders such as the Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela, Graça Machel, Jimmy Carter and Aung San Suu Kyi, Burmese Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Over 160 seminars and workshops were offered on themes ranging from how to inspect the location of a nuclear-weapons base to “Bullying: you can prevent it”.

The city of The Hague has an “unparalleled significance in the development of international humanitarian law” according to the organizers of the Appeal and at the conference an emphasis was placed on the role of law in developing a culture of peace. “When humanity invests in the force of law instead of the law

of force, when governments ratify the new International Criminal Court statute, the land-mines treaty and a nuclear weapons convention, and when humanity commits itself to the implementation of these and already existing treaties... only then can we begin to feel secure in the knowledge that we and our children and grandchildren can look forward to a world of peace with justice. It is time to abolish war; peace is a human right.” (from the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference Registration booklet)

According to the president of *The Hague Appeal*, Cora Weiss, “We are forging a new approach in which citizen advocates, progressive governments, and official agencies will work together for common goals. We will embrace the moral imagination and courage necessary to create a culture of peace for the 21st century and learn the steps needed to abolish war.”

1. The International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, the International Peace Bureau, the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the World Federalist Movement.

2. Available as an Occasional Paper from World Goodwill: see main Order Form.

## MANTRAM OF THE NEW GROUP OF WORLD SERVERS

May the Power of the one Life pour through the group of all true servers.

May the Love of the one Soul characterise the lives of all who seek to aid the Great Ones.

May I fulfil my part in the one Work through self-forgetfulness, harmlessness and right speech.

All men and women of goodwill are invited to use the above brief dedication, silently and with focused attention, at 5 p.m. local time every day. It provides a simple means of linking up in thought with all those who are seeking to serve humanity, the new group of world servers.

*Copies of this mantram are available from World Goodwill.*

## TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

Throughout the period of transition into a new world order of unity, peace and right relations, many groups of people of goodwill are emerging whose activities are characteristic of the new group of world servers. The following organisations and activities may be of interest.

**Peace Boat** is a Japan-based non-governmental organization that runs international cruises with peace as the underlying theme. Passengers are predominantly young and Japanese but people of all ages and nationalities are welcome. On board lectures are held on social and environmental issues specifically aimed at informing

passengers about topics related to each port of call. Topics include Aboriginal way of life in Australia, Spanish civil war and the history of Catalonia, nuclear colonization and the rights of indigenous people in the Pacific Ocean. Tours at each port of call are a mixture of tourism and exchange programs developing

strong ties with NGOs around the world. Every year Peace Boat travels to countries which are the recipients of aid. Participants play an active role by collecting and shipping on board goods aimed at self-sustainability. One of the cruises took relief goods including sewing machines, wheel chairs, medical and stationery goods

to Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines. On-board entertainment consists of original events encouraging participation and initiative. Passengers can participate in and learn photography, martial arts, Japanese calligraphy, sports, personal computing, classical guitar etc. Peace Boat produces a newsletter which gives an overview of this year's cruise, outlining problems at each port of call and highlighting the issues addressed.

For more information: **Peace Boat (Tokyo) 4F NOKK Bldg. 3-13-1, Takadanobaba Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN.** Tel: +81-3-3363-7561; Fax: +81-3-3363-7562; Email: XLC00501@nifty.ne.jp; Web: www.peaceboat.org

**The Fourth International Conference on Peace and Nonviolent Action** will take place 10 - 14 November, 1999 in New Delhi, India. Organised by the **Anuvrat Global Organization (ANUVIBHA)**, a transnational centre for peace and nonviolent action associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations, this conference will examine non-violence (ahimsa), peacemaking, and conflict prevention and management. For more

information: **Anuvrat Global Organization (ANUVIBHA)**, Conference Secretariat, PO Box 1003, Jaipur-302 015, INDIA. Tel: +91-141-510347/512439; Fax: +91-141-510118; Email: slgandhi@hotmail.com; Web: www.anuvibha.com

**The World Peace Prayer Society** is a non-profit, non-sectarian organisation dedicated to spreading the message and prayer *May Peace Prevail on Earth* all over the world.

Founded in 1955 by Masahisa Goi (1916-1980), the society holds the belief that as more and more people begin to live and act in the spirit of this prayer, a great transformation in global consciousness will take place. Everyone is welcome to become a member: there is no cost involved, only the commitment to add the prayer to their lives and to live in its spirit. The Ninth Annual World Peace Festival will take place at the society's World Peace Sanctuary in Amenia, New York, on August 21, 1999. This year the Festival is dedicated to "one Million Voices for Peace" and the organisers are issuing a special invitation to people from every nationality to represent their country in the World Peace Prayer Ceremony. International flag bearers

are needed to create a truly multicultural ceremony which will be webcast live around the world at [www.WorldPuja.org](http://www.WorldPuja.org). To volunteer as a flag bearer, or for more information: **The World Peace Prayer Society**, Attn: Festival Coordinator, 800 Third Avenue, 37th Floor, New York, NY 10022, USA. Tel: +1-212-755-4755; Fax: +1-212-935-1389; Email: [peacepal@worldpeace.org](mailto:peacepal@worldpeace.org); Web: [www.worldpeace.org](http://www.worldpeace.org)

**The United Nations** has proclaimed the first decade of the 21st century (from 2001 to 2010) *The International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World*. The year 2000 has been designated *The Year of Thanksgiving and of the Culture of Peace*. A committee of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates are coordinating ways and means to publicise these designations and, in particular, to promote peace and non-violence on behalf of the children of the world. For more information, contact: **Appeal of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates**, 58 Avenue de Huy - B.P. 20797 - F 60207 Compiègne, France.

Fax: +33-344-86 39-07; Email: [Nobel.appeal.2000@wanadoo.fr](mailto:Nobel.appeal.2000@wanadoo.fr); Web: [www.nobelweb.org](http://www.nobelweb.org)

## HELPING TO BUILD RIGHT HUMAN RELATIONS

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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.

**World Goodwill**  
3 Whitehall Court  
Suite 54  
London  
UK SW1A 2EF

**World Goodwill**  
1 Rue de Varembe (3e)  
Case Postale 31  
1211 Geneva 20  
SWITZERLAND

**World Goodwill**  
120 Wall Street  
24th Floor  
New York, NY 10005  
USA