

# Your Voice

# #1

## Dear Friends

A group of volunteers has joined together to help create — through this newsletter, **Your Voice** — a channel of voices from the Parliament of the World's Religion and to disseminate information that you might not otherwise have a chance to hear. We invite you to write down your visions and commitments (please print legibly) and put them in the various yellow and orange boxes around the conference, or to our office (courtesy of TogetherNet) on the 6th floor. Help us make it your voice by joining in the dialogue.

## Parliament of the People

The "Parliament of the People" is a four-day series of open forums and facilitated activities that will bring the voice of the people to the Parliament's proceedings. This will be your opportunity to respond to Parliament programs, express your views about the critical issues, and to communicate your concerns to the Assembly of Religious and Spiritual Leaders, which will be meeting in closed session for three days. The "Parliament of the People" will consider ways in which we might work together after the Parliament to address the challenges of violence, environmental degradation, human suffering, and other concerns that affect the welfare of the global family.

## Your Voice

This newsletter is a place of your insights, visions, commitments, despair, challenges, humour and any other messages you want to pass on to others. We will print the newsletter as often as possible.

**No doubt? No dialogue!**

## Renewed Commitment to Listen

At this morning's Plenary, we experienced a situation where one wanted to speak and others did not want to listen. As one voice was temporarily silenced, other voices have risen up with a renewed commitment to dialogue. Our hearts and our minds will be tested as we engage in the talks about our deepest fears, truths, angers and dreams. The dialogue is critically important because the journey truly is ours together.

## Today's Plenary

The most amazing moment of the Plenary this morning was not the tension but the way that it ended -- with the dance, the song and the shared embrace.

*Jim Kenney, Program Chair CPWK*

## Religion's Challenge

I'm here to familiarize myself with the plethora of religions as well as to join with the representatives of their nations in devising remedies or solutions to the numerous problems we face today. If we inherently believe, deep in our heart, that we are all one people, and that these challenges must be undertaken what better opportunity than this conference to devise a few steps that each of the 4000 participants can take to make the world a more livable place. Here in the United States, as in so many other countries, we have a tendency to look on our elected officials in our nation's capital for the answers to our problem. We project "leadership" onto them but when it does not come we are disappointed. I see that there are four groups of leaders beyond political leaders :

- corporate and business world
- grassroots, NGO's, municipal governments

- media, and finally
- religion.

I feel that it is both the media and religion that have been lethargic in accepting their responsibility to improve the quality of life. We each have a personal responsibility to be leaders.

*Claudine Schneider, Former Member of US Congress*

## Messages From Angels

I'm here to share messages that have been given to me by angels to help protect the planet from upcoming earth changes :

"We are all one, at the highest level. Whatever hurts one of us, hurts us all. Whatever helps even one of us, help us all. Every single unnecessary death is the loss of a complete one of us. God wishes us to cherish each other. And make health care and environmental protection, top priorities"

The time has come to purchase the rain forest and protect it. I propose we set up a non-profit corporation to sell shares and purchase it along with all other perishable earth resources. The shares will only increase in value.  
*H. Charles Kaplan, M.D., Chicago*

I came here to see what people are thinking in the 21st Century; whether this is just a gathering of people or if they had a real problem solving agenda. Until we get to the root cause of the problem, any solution will bring another problem. And the real solution is that all God-conscious people shall reach to some basic fundamental principles to solve the problem instead of just propagating their own faith.

*Mahaprabhu, City of God, Bombay*

### **When**

When we don't listen so hard  
we can hear  
When we aren't so scared  
we can fear  
When we don't look so hard  
we can see  
When we don't try so hard  
we can be  
*Tim Casswell*

### **Renascence**

The world stands out on either  
side  
no wider than the heart is wide,  
Above the world is stretched the  
sky -No higher than the soul is  
high,  
The heart can push the sea and  
land  
Farther away on either hand,  
The soul can split the sky in two,  
And let the face of God shine  
through.  
But East and west will pinch the  
heart  
That can not keep them pushed  
apart,  
And he whose soul is flat -- the sky  
Will cave in on him by and by.  
*Edna St. Vincent Millay*

### **Limits to Growth?**

It seems that the amount of  
intelligence in the world is static  
but the amount of people is  
growing steadily.

### **Parliament Facilitators**

Approximately 30 facilitators from  
around the world have gathered to  
enable the process of the  
Parliament of the People. They  
represent a pool of group process  
and conflict resolution skills and  
experience. They will be  
facilitating the small groups and  
sessions. They can be contacted  
through TogetherNet.

### **Discovering Fire**

"Some day, after mastering the  
winds and the tide and gravity, we  
shall harness for God the energies  
of love, and then for the second  
time in history, Man will have  
discovered fire" *Teilhard de  
Chardin*

### **On Pluralism**

Pluralism means that groups of  
people who disagree on questions  
of profound importance agree not  
to use those differences as excuses  
for civil wars or uncivil behaviour.  
*Richard Vigilante, Center for Social  
Thought*

### **The Greatest Challenge?**

The struggle for a new language.  
*Danny Martin*

### **Parliament of the People of the Earth**

Gerald Barney gave us a vision of  
a planetary celebration by the year  
2000. We need to initiate a  
pathway to that vision. We have  
an opportunity here for people of  
every faith and discipline to  
express their personal vision and  
commitment — their gifts — for  
the world.

The Parliament needs to be a  
vehicle for spiritual democracy; a  
process where people can share  
their visions and commitments,  
listen to the visions and  
commitments of others, and join in  
partnerships to transform these  
visions into action.

We can create a Parliament of the  
People of the Earth that can  
initiate an ongoing process of many  
parliaments in many regions of the  
world. This can lead by the year  
2000 to a simultaneous Parliament  
of the People of the Earth, via  
satellite, globally connecting up the  
gifts, creative expressions and  
commitments of all cultures. I call  
this event a planetary birth  
celebration.

*Barbara Marx Hubbard, Foundation  
for Conscious Evolution, Greenbrae,  
California*

### **Women as Healers**

Women have always been healers.  
Cultural myths from around the  
world describe a time when only  
women knew the secrets of life and  
death, and therefore they alone  
could practice the magical art of  
healing. In crises and calamity, or  
so some of the stories go, women's

revered position as keepers of the  
sacred wisdom was deliberately and  
forcibly wrested away from them.  
The dissonance between women's  
talents and women's fate bears  
closer attention as it reflect the  
evolution of institutions that lack  
the feminine voice. The absence  
of balance in these institutions has  
perpetrated a crisis that now  
extends alarmingly though all levels  
of health -- from the health of  
cells, tissues, mind and  
relationships, to the health of "the"  
environment upon which life itself  
is dependent.

*Jean Achterberg, "Women as  
Healers"*

### **The Wizard of Is**

Somewhere this side of the  
rainbow  
you can meet the Wizard of Is  
whose special magic  
leaves today's life undistracted  
by the should be's  
and if only's  
that cloud over your perceptions.

"Good old days"  
childish ways  
and other once-were's  
are as absent from the Wizard's  
view  
as are apprehensions about  
tomorrow.  
Instead  
the Wizard of Is resides  
in the near and how of present  
instants only --  
the time and place where life is  
most abundant.

If you ever want to know  
the secret of overflowing with the  
moment  
you must consult the Wizard of Is.  
Fortunately, the Wizard inhabits  
your own domain,  
within the person who bears your  
name.  
*Noel McInnis*

**Action Removes the Doubt . . .**  
. . . that theory cannot solve.

## Costs and Sponsorship

The first issue of this newsletter was underwritten by Hans Keller of the TogetherNet Foundation. We had invited small donations in exchange for each copy. The results did not cover our costs. We are happy to announce that at least three people have come forward with offers and continuing support. We will be acknowledging them in future issues.

## Photocopy Service

Bindu Shroff, the owner of the photocopy shop Copies Now, is providing *Your Voice* with a pick-up and delivery service. If you have need for copying, you are welcome to bring your materials to the 6th Floor. Costs are 8 cents per page for quantities of less than 50 copies, slightly cheaper for larger quantities.

## Jewish - Christian Reconciliation

Primary apostolic mark of Sisters of Scion is bettering Jewish-Christian relations, becoming a paradigm for reconciliation of all peoples suffering prejudice and marginalization. Along with Jewish-Christian bridge building I also work to reduce prejudice, bias, violence and hate crimes.

*Marge Boyle, Sister of Scion, Chicago. (312) 973-7543.*

## My Goal

I want to meet people who want to dream, share, laugh together, make music, share the written word. And meet in silence.

*Janet Sussman, Fairfield. (515) 472-8830.*

## Empowering Ministry

We present a workshop "Making a Difference: a course for those who minister" which is designed to empower ministry for lay and clergy of all religious traditions. We include the teaching and practice of centering prayer. Workshops are scheduled for the US, Ireland and Africa (Kenya). We are available!

*Kay Lindahl, Mastery Foundation, Laguna Niguel CA. (714) 661-3087.*

## Wholistic Religion

Wholistic religion is and must become deeply personal and justly social. The inward-personal without social holiness is in danger of narcissism. Justice struggles without spirituality are in danger of violence. Genuine inwardness opens relationally to the "other", is able to hear and even bear the other's pain, and respond justly. God's grace enables universal relationality.

*James Will, Chicago. (708) 866-3963.*

## Dear Organizers: Display Tables!

Some of us are here on very low budgets. We came to dialogue with others, to hear what they do, and to inform of what we do. Why have you designed a structure which prevents us from exchanging documents. Our expensively produced leaflets are removed by security services or housekeeping when we leave them on hotel tables. Would it be so dangerous to have display tables for everyone to use? What is there to fear? Why so much control? Does "inter-faith dialogue" preclude exchange of documents?

*Bewildered networker.*

## Spirit Of Intention

Is there a spirit of intention, a direction of human kind, that all of humankind can claim as its sun? Who can we turn to, to translate this potential into a description of basic practice? Does this description need to be yet created? Or has most of it already been given?

*Michael Hamilton, Chicago. (312) 338-2544.*

## Lost Opportunity For Meditation/Prayer?

Before I arrived, it was with great joy that I saw that the program provided for regular morning meditation. It was with great sorrow that I discovered that each was "sponsored" by a particular group with its own style -- and each style tends to exclude or alienate those of other persuasions. Meditation or prayer in silence

provides a space in which many can share and is a working symbol of interfaith dialogue. Is it not still possible to have a mediation without external trappings and explanations?

## Unitarian Initiative

British Unitarians seek to enable individuals to be true to themselves religiously in the context of supportive community. Unitarians work for interfaith understanding and social justice. Religious education programmes for children and adults eschew dogma in favour of sharing and personal growth.

*Matthew Smith, Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, London, UK. (44 71) 240 2384.*

## Holistic Spirituality

Reunion is a center and retreat for holistic spirituality. We offer a space of freedom and trust in which (a) to reunite with our Self, (b) to actualize our full potential, (c) to balance our relationship with all life, and (d) to live the vision of cooperation, co-creation and peace on Earth.

*Bety Lue Lieber, Renion, Bloomington IN (812) 876-5646.*

## Challenges To Understanding

If we do not understand how we are part of the problem, then we cannot understand the nature of the solution required.

## Dialogue Of World Religions

Since 1987, St Louis representatives of Vedanta, Buddhism, Chinese philosophy, Islam, Bahai Faith, Judaism, Christianity, Humanism, Native American spirituality, and Unitarian/Universalism have met regularly at Christian Brothers College High School to discuss their common problems, concerns and hopes. They cooperate for an annual peace gathering and bus tour pilgrimage to the places of worship/meeting.

*David Oughton, St Louis' Dialogue Group of World Religions/Philosophies, St Louis MO. (314) 721-1200.*

### **Jainism And World Problems**

Jainism is a religion which can claim to solve the problems of the world and lead to eternal happiness. As Editor of Jain Darshan, I am trying to explain Jainism, keeping aside wrong traditions. My approach is non-sectarian. I intend to show that it is the religion of every thinking person. *Manubhai Doshi, Jain Darshan, Lake Forest IL. (708) 735-0120.*

### **Nasruddin - Where Are You?**

What would Nasruddin have to say had he been persuaded to come to this Parliament? Fans please make suggestions!

### **Dialogue at the Parliament**

If you are frustrated at the challenges of encountering people with whom you can have effective dialogue on this occasion, you might try using this message facility. It can be used for wisdom, humour, philosophy and practical information -- how others respond, and how you respond to them, is for us all to discover. We can co-create a dialogue that by-passes the constraints of the formal programme.

### **Love Is Not An Emotion**

My goal is to awaken every human being to the divine presence in them. This is the only way to practically manifest the love and brotherhood in practical life and the only way to end the conflicts of the world by addressing the problem at its root. "Love is not an emotion, it is your very existence." Why is this love covered with so much hate and misunderstanding? Spiritual democracy may not be possible by simply intellectual stimulation. The inspiration to do so can only arise from our hearts. Art of Living is about opening our hearts -- now, practically!

*Pankaj Agrawal, Art of Living Foundation, Oak Park, Illinois, (708) 987-5245*

### **Importance Of Motherhood**

Children of God and the product of Mother Earth need to recognize the importance of motherhood. This will lead to unity of all her children and the rest of creation. People and organizations that would like to support the concept call: *Prem Sahai, Webster City (515) 832-3355.*

### **Question for Barbara Coffmann**

Great presentation of the Dialogue Project in the Monday night plenary. But is there not a case for greater humility in the face of the challenges? Inter-faith dialogue has been around a long time. Much has been explored. Are you sure that you have the answers? And are they appropriate to non-American cultures? From whom will you learn?

### **Where Are The Excluded?**

Despite the richness of this event, many religions are significant by their absence. Will we ever get to understand on what basis they excluded themselves? The politics of the event should not be swept under the table. Nor should we turn our affirmations of spiritual unity into illusions.

### **Life Is For Giving**

And each one of us is a gift Through forgiveness and love we will return to wholeness and oneness. *Betty Lue*

### **Middle East Settlement**

As this Parliament is being held, news is coming of a probable settlement between Israel and the Palestinians. Let us send blessings to the peace process -- if this understanding comes to fruition it will be a move to the inter-faith dialogue we seek. *Daniel Cohen, London*

### **The Parliament is Front Page News!**

Let the Chicago Tribune know that this event is international in scope and importance. Their stories have been great, but the placement has been second rate. Write or fax a letter to the editor telling them how you feel. The Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan, Chicago, IL 60611. Attn. Voice of the People. On fax (312) 222-2598.

### **This Is Time To Remember**

Future generations will say with envy: "We wish we had lived in the time of the 1993 Parliament, and of Barbara Bernstein, Gerald Barney, and Robert Müller."

*Robert McLaren, California State University, (714) 773-2542*

### **Call To Gays and Lesbians**

Were were the visible gays and lesbians in the great circle Monday night? Where are we at this Parliament? If we find ourselves in our scriptures, we do not find ourselves in our churches. Or in our churches, but not our leadership. Or in our leadership, not in our dialogues. Would the circle have been complete without people of color, or women? Why do you think it is complete without me?

*Kathleen*

### **Who Are We, And Why Are We Here?**

A number of us have decided to attend this Parliament not only to increase our own fund of knowledge of various religions and spiritual philosophies, but also to sound a voice to support the integrity of the Christian message. The message is emphasised and re-emphasized throughout the Old and New Testaments many times. In the Bible, the *main things* are the plain things and the *plain things* are the main things. God, sin, salvation, and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead are presented as factual, historical realities, without embarrassment of apology.

Our concern with the Parliament is that these distinctions tend to get blurred, ignored, and even denied in the name of cooperation and the "celebration of our rich diversity". While the Bible sanctions diversity within the faith, it also clearly condemns faithlessness, apostasy, and idolatry.

The problem with the famous parable of the four blind men and the elephant is that there is a serious problem with the analogy that each perceives different aspects of the same God. To claim that "all of them are telling part of the truth" is not an option. We are left with only two options: either 1) only one religion is telling the truth, or 2) all are lying. According to the most basic laws of (eg. the law of noncontradiction), these different views about God cannot be ultimately true *at the same time* and *in the same respect*. How can we know which one is true?

*Cornerstone Research Team, Chicago, (312) 561-2450.*

## **Proposal for a Declaration Against Genocide**

We propose: that the Parliament of the World's Religions declare categorical condemnation of the horrific sin of genocide, as a crime condemned and forbidden by every Faith; repudiating every attempt to use Religion to justify genocide; stating clearly that those who practise genocide have no support from Religion in their crime; that no longer may anyone use the Holy to justify hatred; that no longer may anyone use the Most High to justify murder; that no longer may be heard as tenable the scandalous claims of those promulgating mass-extirpation in the name of Faith.

*Rashid Raymond Patch, Mevlevi Order of America, P.O. Box 486, Fairfax, CA 94930, 415-566-8165*

## **Reflections Upon Wandering Chicago**

Being lost is not a matter of not knowing where you are, it is not knowing where you are going or what you are doing -- it is not having a destination or purpose.

*Laura, Palmer House 14-122, home (703) 533-7508*

## **We Have All Been Wronged**

It is 3:30 am after 3 days of utter stimulating exhaustion. I had hoped to be sleeping, but I am not. The outbursts and confusions remembered from this past morning during the Voices of the Dispossessed session is still too strong and vivid. I had so wanted to hear our organisers -- who have done such a terrific job -- say the following: *We have all been wronged; we have all wronged.* We all have complaint, and we have all caused complaint. Is this not the basis for our coming together and negotiating our problems and peaceful resolutions together?

We all now that Hindus are among the most tolerant of peoples, and the problems which arose yesterday morning arose from the transgression of their own sense of equilibrium. I am not saying that the Hindus -- or any other people for that matter -- are perfect or blameless. They too have caused problems.

On the other hand, we are all recognizing (and this parliament is in large part the recognition thereof)

that the marginalized and neglected must have the opportunity to speak and be heard. I would only hope that when we do, we can learn to give a balanced appraisal of our situations. I think in the two instances from which dissent arose -- as rights and painful and as needing of expression as the Moslem and Sikh perspectives are, neither speaker sufficiently allowed for the perspective of the other *as well*. Yes, we must definitely complain when we have complaint, but we must allow at the same time that complaint also exists against ourselves. . . (to be continued).

*Michael York, Lyceum of Venus of Healing, Academy for Cultural and Educational Studies*

## **Non-Exclusionary Principle**

As long as we exclude any part of life's whole we will remain exclusive and not inclusive.

We care about people. We also care for wildlife and the Earth. Our retreats relect this -- as, do we hope -- our way of life.

*Jean Le Fevre, Saint John's Center, Montgomery, Texas, (409)597-5757*

## **CLUES TO OUR GATHERING**

### **A Strategy Discussion**

One major common thread is the concern with "what next?", given the apparent urgency of social transformation, the inadequacy of existing approaches, and the weaknesses of existing meetings in giving birth to more adequate initiatives -- especially where there is any question of "paradigm shifts" and "non-linear thinking".

### **A Dialogue**

The gathering might be considered a dialogue or a conversation, in the best sense of these terms -- such as when an event is described as "magical". But this interpretation would evoke a certain impatience if there was any sense of dialogue for dialogue's sake, or with conversation as a collective indulgence.

### **An Experiment**

In a real sense the event is an experiment in meeting organization. As such it may also be thought of as a laboratory. But the experiment is one that is continuously redesigned by the participants as it progresses. And the

outcome is of far more than purely theoretical interest. A concern may be to discover the potential of more highly integrated groups.

### **An Exercise**

The process might be seen as a spontaneous exercise in self-organization in which participants rehearse various ways of articulating and working with an emerging pattern of agreements and disagreements, especially where all are wary of simplistic consensus. However the exercise is more concerned with comprehending and sustaining global patterning than with developing particular technical skills.

### **A Construction Project**

The gathering could be viewed as an exercise in constructing a whole, a pattern, a piece of psycho-social architecture, or a cognitive device. There is a certain concern for design and fitting elements together to make something of relevance to psych-social transformation -- if only for the duration of the event. Metaphors such as a dynamo or a fusion reactor may be used.

### **A Journey**

As with many such events, it may be considered as an expedition, an exploration, or a simple journeying together. However much of the interest in this case comes from articulating the dimensions of collective purpose amongst participants with very different contributions and commitments to the crisis of the times.

### **A Collective Brainstorm**

In the spirit of creativity groups, the gathering might be considered a brainstorming exercise. However there is a very strong resistance to the trap of a purely intellectual, "head" exercise. The concern is then more with creatively combining different kinds of insight, whatever their source. How should people "psych each other up" to a higher order of collective interplay -- integrating the "insight storm" into a fruitful "weather pattern"?

### **A Collective Dreaming**

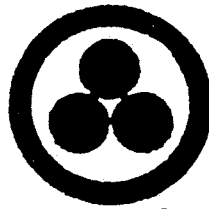
There may be aspects of the event which reflect the best sense of dreaming, especially of giving appropriate form to the future or "dreaming the future into being".

# THE CHALLENGE OF SPIRITUAL CONCORD

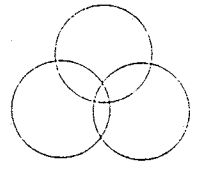
viewed through a playful meditation on the Banner of Peace



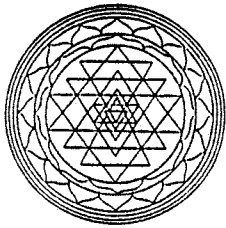
Prehistoric cultural symbol



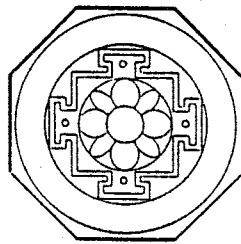
Banner of Peace



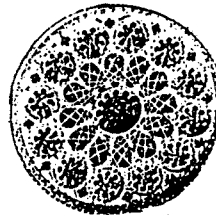
Logic diagram



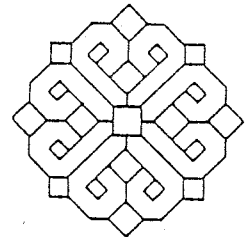
Hindu yantra



Buddhist mandala

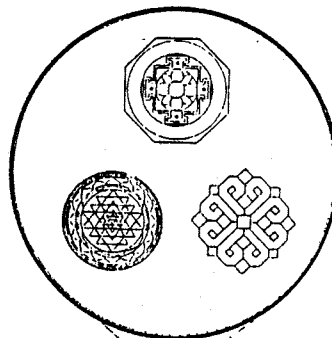
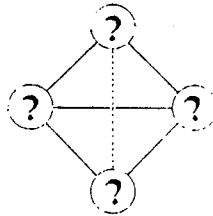


Christian rose window

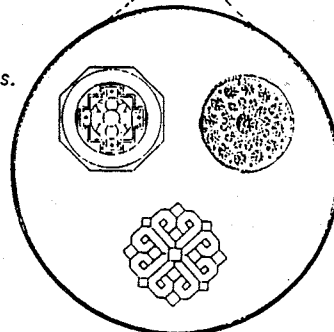
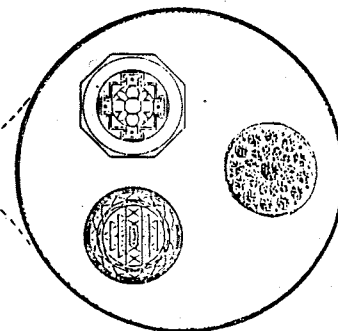
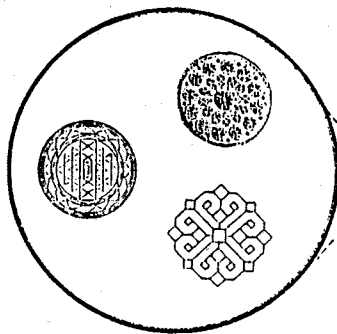


Islamic pattern

Interrelationship of the 4 above 2-dimensional symbols of spiritual integration through the fundamental tetrahedral form in 3 dimensions. This raises both the challenge of primacy and that of comprehending the fundamental concord uniting the different forms of spiritual integration.



Resulting pattern of 4 "views" through each symbol of integration -- across the empty centre of the tetrahedral form -- onto the integrations offered by the 3 others. From a holographic perspective, each "part" encompasses the "whole", and each "whole" constitutes a "part".



The names that can be named are not definitive names.  
 Naming engenders ten thousand things...  
 Thirty spokes share the wheel's hub.  
 It is the empty centre hole that makes it useful...  
 Therefore profit comes from what is there.  
 Usefulness comes from what is not there.  
 (Tao Te Ching, Lao Tzu)

Prepared by A J N Judge, Union of International Associations,  
 40 rue Washington, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium, on the occasion  
 of the 1st World Congress towards Spiritual Concord  
 (Alma-Ata, October 1992) of the International Society  
 "Peace through Culture"

## We Agree

A two-sided *Your Voice* #2 would have been preferable. Our photocopy shop had machine problems. It was either one-sided or not at all.

## Directory of Participants? Post-Conference Dialogue?

Would it be possible to allow us to have (purchase) a directory of all participants in this conference. We are family and it would be great to communicate.

Also, could we continue a newsletter (open sharing and dialogue) after the conference to keep our communication, cooperation and co-creation open?

## If You Want To Stay in Touch After the Parliament

you must complete your blue database form. All this will be entered into a special database which will be available in two ways :

1) electronically on TogetherNet, and  
2) for those who have no computer, call 1 800 ECOLINE. There is no sign up fee, and those in need to set up a network communication system with others to work on projects or themes can qualify for grants to cover the monthly rate.

*Hans Keller, TogetherNet*

## Co-Sponsor RiverBend Press

Newsletter co-sponsored by RiverBend Press, P. O. Box 586, Concord, MA 01742 U.S.A. Tel/Fax 508-371-2664. Contact us for a free mail order catalog of multi-cultural and diversity books, videos, and other materials.

## Action By Good People

In the world, good people are in vast numbers. People with evil intentions are in a negligible minority. But the world is afflicted not as much because of the violence of the wicked, as by the silence of the virtuous. I hope this Parliament will make the good people act.

*S N Subba Rao, Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi.*

## Unity-and-Diversity

Unity-and-Diversity World Council works with all faiths and other organizations in all fields to create a "Peoples UN" -- cooperating to give manifestation to a new person and a global civilization based on the dynamic integration of diversity. Please contact us to see in what way we can cooperate on the UNO peace endeavour.

*Leland Stewart, University-and-Diversity World Council, Los Angeles (213) 742-6832.*

## For A Sane and Healthy World

We have attended the Parliament for the World's Religions and are committed to contributing toward a sane and healthy world that works for everyone, with no one left out.

*Rick and Jean Wright-Martin, Charlestown, MA, (617) 241-8109*

## Violations Of Human Rights

Venerable Thich Chan Ly and Dr Le Fluve Sang (?) have attended several workshops at the parliament of World's Religions. They have requested that a strong condemnation be made against the Hanoi Government for violations of human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam. There will be a statement to this effect included in the final declaration by the Parliament of World's Religions. Good news for the Vietnamese People.

*Thich Chan Ly, Inter Buddhist Council, Portland OR. (206) 352-7109*

## Where Do They Go?

Yesterday I put pamphlets on all chairs. Someone removed them before the first session. If the organization did it, I can understand. If someone else did it -- you should enquire

*Prem Sahai*

## Dear Organizers: Display Facilities (latest!)

No new action on display facilities. However many participants are now taking the opportunity to use the

limited hotel tables and sideboards to layout their literature. Hotel staff still seem to have instructions to clear these periodically. The single Bulletin Board "officially approved" is now bulging in a ridiculous manner. The Operating Staff of the Parliament indicate that the lack of display tables was an explicit decision by the CPWR Board of Trustees. For some reason they really are against any form of dialogue through paper -- contrary to the prevailing practice in meetings in North America. Can it be that this whole Parliament is being conducted through a fear mentality? Do they really need to fear the spiritual ad religious attendees? Concerned participants should contact: Dr Nelvia Brady (Chief Operating Officer), Jim Kenney (Chair of Program).

## Dear Organizers: Display Facilities (A Suggestion)

How can we be positive about this challenge? Some possibilities:

1. Allocate display tables in the Exhibition Area. There is plenty of free space. Are there contractual constraints around "booth rental" -- can these not be got around, given that the display tables would attract new visitors to the other booths?
2. Make display tables in one of the other rooms and announce it clearly. One of the main rooms on 4th Floor maybe?

## Devotional Songs

I am in the USA on an eleven week tour of US/Canada to sing devotional songs of India. Mr Shankar, Principal of the Vivekananda School of Bangalore is with me. He plays on the tabla with me. We hope to raise funds for our building project. The goal is \$60,000. Using this opportunity we are attending the Parliament.

*N Krishnaswamy, Swami Vivekananda Educational Society, Bangalore.*

## Spiritual Elections

As we speak of Spiritual Democracy, the Power of the People to worship freely, I pray that in the end it is God, not Man, who counts the vote!  
*Edward Hubbard*

### **Interfaith Network**

Anyone from the Washington DC area, especially Northern Virginia, interested in building a stronger interfaith network in our area, in pursuing ongoing programs of interfaith dialogue, worship and study. Please contact: *Laura Shulman at Palmer House this week Rm 14-122 or at home (703) 533-7508.*

### **Sensitivity Suggestions**

1. Please: no incense in the Mediation Room. It was unusable at noon on Tuesday for those of us with sensitivities.
2. Please ask both women and men to avoid using perfumed products, to the extent possible, for the same reason.
3. Waving hands in the air instead of clapping is a wonderful way to show approval without disrupting a speaker, creating more noise (which is draining of limited energies) and is aesthetically pleasing.

### **Meditation Practice**

By earnest practice of meditation one understands how body and mind function. One sees how greed, hatred and delusion come about, sees how they cause violence, destruction and despair within oneself and others. One learns to replace greed, hatred and delusion with generosity, loving-kindness and wisdom. One who follows this path will attain perfect peace, total peace and will radiate loving-kindness to everyone at all times.

*Henepola Gunaratana, Bhavana Society, High View WV (304) 856-3241.*

### **Role of The Outcast**

The universe (God) has already set into motion the great changes ahead. The "outcast", the "outsider", and the homeless whose numbers are growing, are the main material being used to manifest this change. The Uranus/Neptune conjunction describes this and more. "God must love the poor. He made so many!"  
*Leilani Hayes, Chicago, IL (312) 733-2180.*

### **Interfaith Training Of Youth**

The Grain of Wheat Community co-sponsors an International Youth Training Camp each summer (next 7-13 August 1994) which is a multi-cultural, interfaith training of youth

leaders in a rural setting. Contact: *Michael Ketterhagen (414) 922-0629.*

### **Create-a-Nation Advice**

Hi, up there at your personal global business enterprise. Earn more gross income from sensitive and humanitarian transnational exchanges. At your service at lowest fees. Can advise on starting-up your own sovereign nation, with UN recognition, military, government, monetary, etc.  
*Saud Ben Abdul Aziz, Chicago, IL (312) 973-6070.*

### **Celebration Of What We Have In Common**

In the spirit of Popes John XXIII and Paul VI and the Second Vatican Council, we seek to emphasize and celebrate all that people of the Earth have in common, on the way toward our growth into human maturity.  
*Kevin Laughery, Farmersville IL, (217) 522-7781.*

### **Universal Third Order**

Come hear about the Universal Third Order (Thursday, 10th Floor, Rm 219, 8:30 - 9:30 am). The order is a gathering of the mystics of all religions into a planetary spiritual community. It was founded by a Quaker, inspired by Robert Muller who is a member. For information call: Alison Davis, Palmer House.

### **Spiritual Emergency Network**

The dynamics of a gathering of this sort are those of an intensive spiritual retreat. That intensity may cause individuals to become, for a time, unbalanced on physical, mental or spiritual levels. Are representatives of Spiritual Emergency Network or any similar group present and available to help in such cases, with counselling or referrals? Please make yourself known.

### **Parliamentary Media Coverage**

Extracts from a letter to the Chicago Tribune's editor: Your coverage of the parliament of World's Religions deserves comment. In the three articles written by Mike Hirsley, the writing has been excellent. As a co-sponsor of the event, we are pleased with his style and depth. We do however object to the placement of the articles. In Monday's Tribune, his

excellent article on Dr Gerald Barney's address was delegated to section 2, page three. This address had stunning significance in that it implicated a spiritual void as a primary reason for the environmental crisis we face and challenged world religious leaders to play a much expanded role in creating a sustainable economic system. This is clearly international news...when I saw Tuesday's paper describing the fracas that occurred in Monday's session, I was even more disappointed. This dissent was given front page coverage. It is this continual focus on the negative that tarnishes the media's reputation and you should be aware that many of the leaders of the Parliament truly feel this way. It is demeaning of your paper, the city of Chicago, and a slap in the face to the attendees.

*Jim Slama, Publisher, Conscious Choice Magazine. (send your comments to Voice of the People, Chicago Tribune)*

### **Co-creation of Spiritual Communities**

We co-create spiritual communities of love, trust and mutual respect which embrace and celebrate our diversity, serve the well-being of the human family and honour the sanctity of all creation. We ask this question: What would it be like if there was a spiritual base to all communities?

*Kay Lindahl, Alliance for Spiritual Communities, Laguna Niguel, CA (714) 661-3087.*

### **We Are All Minorities**

Another perspective which might help our coming together is the realization that we are all minorities. This is of course not to say that we are all marginals, but as minorities, we have all the potential to be marginalized. There is no dominant faith. Christians at best are only one third of the world's total population. Christians and Moslems together make up only one half of the world's peoples. The rest of us are much smaller.

*Michael York, Lyceum of Venus of Healing, Academy for Cultural and Educational Studies.*

### **Divine Image**

If each day everything we do, such as prayer, fasting, meditation, agape, work and communication with others, is done in the spirit of world mediation, sacred dedication, and with the Divine-Image Consciousness, each of us can make a difference that will uplift and unite the human spirit in the One Cause.

*Shonne Hurstis, Ann Ru Colton  
Foundation of Nescience, Inc.,  
Glendale, CA, (818) 244-0113*

### **Participate in ISSSEEM**

Join in the development of the newly emerging field of **Subtle Energies and Energy Medicine**. **Psychology, psychophysiology, psychophysics, biochemistry, and medicine**, as well as other disciplines, are rapidly synthesizing into this innovative new scientific discipline and ISSSEEM provides you with a vehicle to help this integration. In the tumult of world affairs, our individual voices may not be heard, but together we, and our world view, will command attention. Through carefully prepared conferences and top quality Newsletter and peer-reviewed Journal the Society serves its membership and stimulates the larger scientific community.

*International Society for the Study of  
Subtle Energies and Energy Medicine,  
Golden, Co, (303) 278-2228*

### **Full-Time Parliament**

I am not an organization, but I would like to encourage that a permanent Institute of the Parliament of World's Religions be established so this experience does not end. This would be a full-time year round Parliament with guest presenters from every religion and spiritual thought. Thank you for the experience.

*Dian Kiser, American Heart  
Association, Sacramento, CA,  
(916)446-6505*

### **Restoring Balance**

Exclusive monotheist worship of male God of creation has made Christian civilization a compulsive producer of artifacts. To save world we must restore balance between: God-Goddess, will-power, love, creation, conservation, intellect, feelings.  
*Frederic Lamond, Fellowship of Isis,  
London, UK (011-44) 81-2090619*

### **Western Approach**

Monday night's Plenary session was unbalanced- its focus was Western and had a distinct aura of corporate America. There was no input from other religious perspectives- if anything, the emphasis was a rather positivistic approach. Why the fancy evening dresses and the tuxedo of some of the presenters? It might have been helpful to hear a Taoist or Buddhist approach to the same issues. Once again, Western culture predominated. We American "missionaries" are still here preaching our way, our perspective on reality. Even after 100 years, certain attitudes still persist. It's time for more listening, learning, and less leading.

### **End State-Sponsored Genocide**

The Parliament must make a formal declaration against the practice of state-sponsored Genocide -- no matter where, or by whom. If this does not occur, this great opportunity for world sanity, under the moral leadership of the world's religions will be lost for another 100 years. Please pass this on to the Executive Committee. Thank you and God Bless  
*Saul Jole Beverley(?), Charlottesville,  
Virginia*

### **Awareness With Non-Judgement and Love is Healing**

Life is flow. Judgement and condemnation block the flow. Forgiveness and releasing the block with love opens the flow again returning us to health and balance and oneness

### **Teachers of the Universe**

Everything we think or say or do teaches all the universe.  
*A Course in Miracles*

### **Work Moves Mountains**

There are moments when things go well and one feels encouraged, There are difficult moments and one feels overwhelmed. But it's senseless to speak of optimism or pessimism.

The only important thing is to know that if one works well in a potato field, the potatoes will grow. If one works well among people, they will grow -- that's reality. The rest is smoke.

It's important to know that words don't move mountains.

Work, exacting work, moves mountains

*By Danilo Dolci, cited by James MacIntyre, TogetherNet Volunteer*

### **Conference Statistics?**

Dear Parliament,  
First off, Thank You.  
Your Efforts are to be commended. Secondly, Who are we -- the attendees of the parliament?  
What percentage are Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish etc?  
What percentage are male and female?  
What percentage are from India, Africa, Australia, etc?  
etc., etc.  
If some of these statistics could be published, I think it would be of interest to all.  
Again, Blessings and Countless Thanks  
*Leonard*

### **No Synthesis. No Elephant**

At several sessions at the World Parliament, the parable of the elephant and the five blind philosophers has been retold. Often the parable ends with the philosophers arguing. But what would need to happen for the blind philosophers to gain a better understanding of the elephant? First, each philosopher must clearly articulate her or his own view. If the differences are repressed or discounted, part of the elephant disappears. Second, they must be willing to listen to one another, and live with the discomfort that the different felt-images will produce. If they stop listening or try to fit new information into something they already know, part of the elephant is lost. Third, they must be willing to pool their resources, let go and allow a larger synthesis to appear. No synthesis, no elephant. Fourth, after announcing their grand synthesis, they must be careful not to mistake their vision for elephant-itself. Should they forget, the elephant may remind them. What does this parable suggest to you about our work here at the World Parliament of Religions?

*Ted Tollefson, Mythos Institute*

### **Sanctuary for Stricken Souls**

Are we talking about organizing ourselves into a religious order? No, to belong to a religious order is to be owned by it. You trade freedom for protection. Remember the Heart of the God / Divine is Freedom. Remember the impulse to organize faith was founded by profound human need. Like most good things, it can be sadly perverted; but the idea of a society that is a sanctuary for stricken souls, where simplicity, service, and useful endeavour are found, will never die from the human heart. We must answer to this need for information, knowledge, and shared effort. let us pray the POWER answers this basic heart-need.

To know but one religion is to not know that one. In fact superstition consists in this one thing -- faith in one religion, to the exclusion of others.

*Ed Hubbard*

### **We Need Ground Rules**

Thanks for reminding us that the purpose was to listen to the voices of the dispossessed. The People of God gave me a headache in their reaction! I wonder what the spirits of 1893 among us were feeling. Perhaps 1893 was by invitation only. This is better but we need ground rules.

*Margaret A. McNamara*

### **Politicians and Plenaries Don't Mix**

The planners of Sunday morning's plenary should have screened that some people do not use the platform for a few interested politicians. One-sided and false propaganda debases the organization of the Parliament of the World Religions.

*Prem Sahai*

### **Non-Inclusiveness**

As long as we exclude any part of life's whole we well remain exclusive and not inclusive. We in our church care about people. We also care for wildlife and the Earth. Our retreats reflect this as, do we hope, our way of life.

*Jean Le Fevre, Church of the White Eagle, Montgomery, Texas, (409) 597-5757*

### **Youth -- Culture -- Evolution**

We work to implement sustained development and youth leadership. Our current goals are the Global Youth Forum - Brasilia, Brazil, March 21-28, 1994 and other cross-cultural youth initiatives. The three dimensions of our mission are INNER -- SOCIAL -- ENVIRONMENT ecology. Youth has to assume its responsibility. Therefore we must collaborate, by all means, to empower legitimate youth leadership at community and global levels.  
*Antonio Barahona, Brasilia, Brazil, +55.61.3211949.*

### **Ecumenical Dialogue**

I am committed to assisting fundamentalist Christians in their journey toward both Christian unity and interfaith acceptance and understanding. I have interests in the small church and the rural church as viable communities and expressions of the Christian faith.

*Roger Barr, General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns of the United Methodist Church, Sequim, WA, (206) 683-0644*

### **Pollinators of Possibility**

Healing matters supports an awareness of the sacredness of all healing encounters. As a medical doctor, I particularly intend to move the focus from the superficial, mechanical, hi-tech approach toward a deep valuing of the river of spirituality that flows through and animates all life. I personally aim to be a "pollinator of possibility" for those I meet -- and an honest seeker, myself  
*Barry Sultanoff, M.D., Healing Waters, Kensington, MA., (301) 942-9024*

### **Shareholders of the Universal Wisdom**

We stand in great admiration before the spiritual legacy of the Benedictine monk, sage and prophet Dom Bede Griffiths (1906-1993) who said "All religious teachings are a symbolic expression of a truth which cannot adequately be expressed. Each religion, be it Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim or whatever, is limited by time, space and circumstances. All forums of organization, priesthood, ritual and doctrine belong to the world of signs, which will pass away. But in all these superficial forms of religion, an

eternal truth manifests itself. Idolatry consists of remaining in the realm of these signs; true religion goes beyond these sign to reality." Let us all here awake to the presence of GOD in our hearts and become one. The universal call for reconciliation is the greater challenge of our time -- unconditional love is the answer.  
*Roland R. Ropers, Kreuth, Germany, +49 8029 8235*

### **Prayers of Encouragement**

To the Council,  
These are prayers of encouragement to participants from a fellowship in Houston, Texas. I was asked to share them at the Parliament, so I am offering them to *Your Voice*. Please feel free to print any or all. Thank you for this splendid event!  
*Stan Blazyk*

Ed: two follow and we'll add more as we have the space.

### **May Your Hearts be Full!**

May you assist in bringing forward out of man's tendency to isolation, a means for those you lead and / or serve to find a place to express and discover their deep longing for community, communion with the Great Mysterious, their love of Life and each other.  
May your hearts be full!

### **Please Seize The Day**

Carpe Diem, and truly share by giving and receiving Love, validating one another, learning from one another, honouring one another, restoring communion and worldwide spiritual culture. Go for it!  
RUN FLY SOAR

### **Religious Freedom in Vietnam**

Under domination of the Vietnamese communist government, there is absolutely no respect for human rights and religious freedom in Vietnam. The Vietnamese delegates at the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago request that the 6,000 religious leaders participating condemn Hanoi communist government and take necessary steps to liberate the Vietnamese people.  
*Chan-ly Thich, Inter Buddhist Council, Portland, Oregon*

# Your Voice

# #4

## **Sponsoring Your Voice -- Thanks**

Our thanks go out to our new sponsors -- **Eschaton Productions, The School of Metaphysics, and Everyday Angels** -- for their generous contributions that are helping to make it possible to publish *Your Voice*.  
*The Editors and Facilitators*

## **Discourse on the Soul**

Dedicated to the renewal of the discourse on Soul, drawing on resources from Pythagoras to Plotinus, the Upanishads to Shankara, the spiritual heritage of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, to the insights available to Shamanistic and spirit religions. To provide, via study & contemplation, a healthy set of alternatives to the prevalent conceptions of psychology and cosmology. *Steven Marsh, Seven Mirrors, Lincoln, NE*

## **Sustainable Agriculture**

We need to promote a more sustainable agriculture in harmony with nature, for the benefit of all humanity, and to bring results of scientific and educational projects into the hands of those who seek information on ways to improve productivity and profit of ecologically sound and socially just agriculture. *Patrick Madden, World Sustainable Agriculture Association, Glendale, CA*

## **Looking Forward to 2000**

Our vision is to amplify the message of the "good news" of who we are and what we have come to do as one global family, to empower listeners everywhere and catalyze a planetary event in the year 2000.

*Jan St. John, Unicom Productions, San Rafael, California.*

## **World Circle of Friendship**

Join the final session of the Parliament of the People on Friday for the World Circle of Friendship. Seal the spirit of dialogue you have created in this time and space. 12 noon in the Red Lacquer Room. Buy your lunch earlier in the day and eat it in good company.

## **World Blessing Ceremony**

*Today at noon, Thursday, in the Red Lacquer Room, there will be a special ceremony to extend blessings from this Parliament to the world. Four members of the Assembly of Religious and Spiritual Leaders will offer their words of support for the work of the Parliament of the People, linking our activities here in the Palmer House with the commencement today of their Assembly sessions which will occur over the next three days of the Parliament. The blessing will take around 20 minutes. Please stay to work on the 3rd Parliament of the People session.*

## **Two Ears. One Mouth**

Listen deeply, speak carefully

## **Grassroots Interfaith Dialogue**

Imagine a world where the conversations we've initiated here at the Parliament are part of the fabric of every community. It's up to each of us. We have experimented with a model that is very simple and yet creates an environment that nurtures this. Lay and ordained people meet as equal partners. There's a dance between teacher and student. We gather as the spiritual community in our secular community -- who are we? We support each other in our various social service outreach and projects and yet we as a group do not source them. We become resources for each other. We become known.

We are interested in a continuing dialogue with others who are doing this or wish to start something like this. One idea is to share what works and what doesn't work in a newsletter. Interested? Contact us.

*Kay Lindahl, Alliance for Spiritual Community, 24032 Caravel Place, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. 714 661-3087; fax 714 496-5535*

## **A Space to Listen**

The Parliament is a wonderful opportunity to come together to learn, to listen and to create a space to understand and to hear the One message for all humanity. Listen! Listen! Listen and hear! Then act from our Heart of hearts. Be Peace! Be Love! Be Harmony! Be!

*Mary Wilson, Albuquerque, New Mexico*

## **Healing the Land**

Heal the land and ourselves with the concepts of community supported agriculture and Biodynamic techniques that can bring about vitalization of a land and the people who work the land. Farmers are the food producers for us all -- good food and economic justice.

*Jean Schlicklin, Organic Growers, Kalamazoo, Michigan*

## **Bridges of Peace**

I have a vision that we stop making bombs. That we work for good things like conflict resolution and building better homes. Do we need the Bomb to enforce slavery across the lands? No we don't need the bomb any more! We've got to make the governments understand. We need bridges of understanding between our fellow man. We need friendships in foreign lands, more people holding hands. So lets start building bridges of peace between our fellow men throughout the lands.

*Allen LeCours*

## **Listen!**

The Parliament is a wonderful opportunity to come together to learn, to listen, and to create a space to understand and to hear the One message for all humanity. Listen! Listen! Listen! Listen and hear! Then act from our Heart of hearts. Be Peace! Be Love! Be Harmony! Be!

*Mary Wilson, Albuquerque, NM, (505) 881-2299*

## Overpopulation and Global Stewardship

I've just come from "Global Stewardship: Consumption, Population & Technology Issues: Leadership" Burnham Wing #1. The program description was TOTALLY different from what was presented! There were flowery academic back-patting & flattery - not any of the panellists participating EVER got to ANY part of the title of this lecture/panel. Shocking - when there are so many choices and our precious time is wasted by such antics. The issue of overpopulation relative to the ecology of this earth, relative in total to the major religions of the world and what we the major religions of the world plan to do about birth control, general cultural ignorance as to what overpopulation is creating in terms of consumption, overpopulation and technological waste. Religions have everything to do with what happens next!

## Gender Reflections

I am stuck by the incongruity that exists between our statements about inclusivity and wholeness and the words we use. The POWR seems an excellent place to practice the use of language that supports our ideals. Is God HE? Why MAN instead of HUMAN or HUMANKIND? Why must He persist in our language to represent both men and women? The Parliament of 1893 was a watershed event. This Parliament can be also. Let us bring harmony between the words we use and our dreams for a world of justice & peace.

Linda Whittenberg

## Decide to be Human

To be a world citizen  
A global being  
A member of the human family  
To place humanity before anything else

To love your human brethren and sisters

As your own family

Never to kill,- not even in the name of a nation  
never to exercise physical or verbal violence

To know, love & respect your beautiful planetary home

To live in it as a grateful, joyful guest  
To contribute to humanity your peace, kindness and happiness  
To help the further ascent of the human race  
To cherish its endless, beautiful diversity  
To educate your children as world citizens  
and children of God

And to leave behind you the remembrance  
Of a good, kind, loving human being.  
*Robert Müller, Chancellor of the University for Peace; Costa Rica*

## Music as a Metaphor

What metaphor best reflects what we are doing here - our vision for the religions co-existing? I prefer the metaphor of a chord. Each note retains its individual character - each guitar string vibrates with its own splendid life - asserting its identity ("C" "E" "G") - yet together they form a larger entity - the Chord. Each string resonates with overtones of the others, sharing common characteristics, yet no note is lost in or secondary to the others. And chords can then support melody - perhaps each religion alternately "leading the way" in the area of human spiritual existence which it understands best? Is the metaphor useful?

Mike (510) 420-0735

## Greed Is Spiritual Poverty

"Greed is merely for the materialistic, the only sensible approach to fulfilling senses. For the person self-absorbed in this dream world, where no God or limitations exist, morality is determined simply on this basis. If it increases my wealth, it is good."  
*Rev. Aaron Zerah; from Heaven to Earth*

## Contentment

Of all the wealth, contentment is the greatest.  
*Dharmapada*

## A Suggestion

An idea about what can follow after this gathering: I would like to see a list generated of people that are interested in hosting participants in their own homes/communities after we all go "home". Perhaps names & addressees could be dropped into a

box, then the conference could type up names & addresses and then distribute.

*Karen Gambee; Madison WI*

## Spiritual Revolutions

Dear Friends - I am amazed & overwhelmed by the beauty, love, sweetness and power of the consciousness-force that is expressing itself through all of us here, and growing exponentially. Barbara Marx Hubbard's electrifying talk reminded me of an aphorism written by Sri Aurobindo at the beginning of this century, that the revolutions now coming up may appear to be social, economic or political in nature; but their true nature will not be known until they are seen to be spiritual and evolutionary revolutions. Namaste.  
*William Moss, President-Sri Aurobindo Association; Watertown MA*

## A Global Celebration of Our One Human Family

An Interfaith Healing Service  
Thursday, September 2, 1993, Clark #4, 2:00-3:30 p.m. The people of the Parliament of the World's Religions are invited to a participatory, inclusive interreligious experience of worship to forgive and reconcile past differences and conflicts among religions and nations of the world and evoke that great faith which unites people and brings hope to the world. If possible or desired, bring something from your faith tradition to share with others. This experience can be used in your locality.

*Virginia Swain, Rev. Dr. Jean Wright-Martin and Rabbi Aaron Zerah*

## A Proposal - Trees for Bosnia

Here is a proposal for the Parliament. The war in Bosnia - Herzegovina will end. It will end. As part of the healing which must go forward, we propose that churches and organizations all over the world raise funds to replant the trees in Sarajevo and the other cities; trees shattered by bombs and mortars and cut down for fuel. It would be good planet-keeping; an act of love; a gift to the children of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Trees are life. We ask you to discuss this idea and contact us.

*Phoebe Wray, Scribe, The Lyceum of Venus of Healing; Palmer House 14-128*

To ensure receipt of messages, use orange box on TogetherNet counter, 6th Floor

### **Nature's Niche**

We are in quest of a grand unification, participatory symbiosis and integrative complexity, and to inspire others to experience the epiphany of the disappearance of the outside.

Thanksgiving :

For love

In all its myriad manifestations  
Especially those so rapturously  
etherial

Just beyond the precipice of our  
imagination

Where we in communion

Become One

*Gregory LeGault, Courtney, WI, (715)  
893-2419*

### **World Unity Festival**

Flagstaff, Arizona. This festival will be a spiritual and artistic culmination to hundreds of preceding events. The dates of the Unity Festival will be August 21-28, 1994. The Peace Gathering will be for seven days (Monday through Sunday) at the south rim of the Grand Canyon. During the week there will be music, booths, speakers, workshops and ceremonies. All the events will be free and completely open to the public with free on-site camping. The main concert and ceremonies will be Saturday and Sunday at the Northern Arizona Skydome, a 20,000 seat venue. We are also investigating the possibility of a satellite broadcast for the weekend concert.

*Michael DiMartino, Quetzalocóatl  
Productions, Flagstaff, AZ, (602) 773-  
9669*

### **Jewish / Christian Understanding**

I am a member of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, a Roman Catholic religious order, founded to help bring about better understanding between Jewish / Christian peoples and among all peoples; to bring about justice especially for the poor and dispossessed also.

*Stephanie Schmidts, Chicago, IL, (312)  
787-7174*

### **Fundamentalism**

The Joseph Campbell Foundation is seeking to formulate a response to cultural and religious fundamentalism. We are collecting and cataloguing.

*Antony Van Covering, Joseph Campbell  
Foundation (212) 633-6145*

### **School Building Appeal**

I am a teacher of science and maths at our half finished school in Bangalore, India. Myself and Prof N K Krishnaswamy, secretary of the school, are on a tour of the US to raise funds to complete the school building. Incidentally we are participating in the Parliament as presenters of Indian devotional music. Prof Krishnaswamy sings and I play on tabla. We have a target of raising \$60,000 to complete our building work.

*Harihar V. Shankar, Headmaster,  
Bangalore, Karnataka, India*

### **Religious Educators**

My interest is focused on children and families; also interested in religious art, music and videos.

*John Price, St. Mary's Church, Lake  
Forest, IL, (708) 234-0090*

### **Dialogue Diversity**

We all want inter-religious and ecumenical dialogue while at the same time believing in the rightness of our own traditions. But for many of us, our fundamental traditions are so close to the brink of non-existence, that an inter-faith forum is our sole chance to plead our very preservation. The non-religious and atheist segment of the world's population is something more than one fifth. The Hindu-Buddhist coalition is something less than one fifth. My own, very unorganized faith is pagan and includes the Chinese religions of the folk, the Tao and Confucius, the Shintoists of Japan, the tribalists of Asia, America and Africa, the spiritists of Africa and the Americas, and the shamanists of Siberia and elsewhere. We are not more than 6% of the world's total population. New religions, according to the World Christian Encyclopedia's projections together (including Judaism, Sikhism, Jainism, Bahai and the Parsees) total together less than 1%.

Our negotiations and preservations must keep these perspectives in mind. Because the richness of diversity belongs to us all; the loss of any tradition is a loss for us all. Because our very diversity is something not only to preserve but to celebrate. It is something for which we must be grateful.

*Michael York, Lyceum of Venus of  
Healing*

### **Women's Lodge**

Women's Lodge now open from 7:30 to 9:30 am as well as 12:00 to 2:00 pm, Level 3. Room 7.

### **Global Tea Party**

Welcome to a "GLOBAL TEA PARTY" on September 3rd 11:00 am to 2:00 pm 1993. AT&T's new videophone will link up the World Parliament of Religions with friends in Washington DC, San Francisco, Moscow, Sydney, Vienna and Rio de Janeiro. The experience of simultaneous audio-visual connections lends depth and joy to our experience of the global family. Connect at the TogetherNet booth, 6th Floor, and stay connected!

*Elisabet Spens and Nancy Larson,  
Mirror for Humanity*

### **Interfaith Spirituality Centre**

Our mission is to serve the spiritual sojourners of all traditions, offering experiences in prayer, meditation, ritual, art and sacred dance. Our centre is beginning to be born after serving the spiritually homeless refugees from institutionalized religion for 14 years. It offers experiential, interfaith retreats in the creation spirituality tradition, using prayer, ritual, sacred chant and dance from the world's religions, also art-as-meditation. Physical, psychological, spiritual health are promoted.

*Joseph Kilikevics, Retreat Director, Oak  
Park IL, (708) 848-9772*

### **Bridges Needed**

Bang! Bang!

I have a vision that we stop making Bombs. That we work for good things like conflict resolution and building better homes, but do we need the Bomb to enforce slavery across the lands? No we don't need the Bomb no more! We've got to make the governments understand. We need bridges of peace and understanding between our fellowman. We need more friendships in foreign lands, more people holding hands. So let's start building bridges of peace between our fellowman throughout the lands. *Allen R Le Cours.*

### **Vote Bags From China**

The parliament vote bags are from China. Were they made by prison labour?

*Noël, Common Ground*

### **Spiritual Emergency Network**

Responding to the request in *Your Voice* #3. I work regularly with persons in spiritual crisis. If you wish to contact me at the Parliament, leave a message on the TogetherNet computer in the POWR Facilitators folder under my name. Or call me after the conference: *Jeanie Marshall* (310) 458-1172.

### **Art of Living**

The Art of Living Foundation, established by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar of Bangalore, India, offers courses to individuals to put them back in touch with their innate innocence and simplicity in the midst of all the stresses of modern life. The courses offer techniques and processes to experience this spirituality in practical life. This is an experience, not a lecture!

*Pankaj Agrawal, Art of Living Foundation, Chicago IL (312) 987-5145.*

### **Inner City Public Schools**

I want to put a thought pattern in the public schools that will help the inner city (urban) students have higher self-esteem, be happier and increase their intelligences.

*Barbara Baker, Chicago IL (312) 225-5300.*

### **World Court Project**

The World Health Assembly is asking the International Court of Justice (World Court) to rule on the legality of the use of nuclear weapons. If the Court, the world's supreme judicial organ, rules that the use of nuclear weapons is illegal, it would pave the way for a convention to eliminate them. To have your voice heard in the Court, write a declaration saying that you believe that nuclear weapons are inhumane, immoral and illegal. Send it to: *World Court Project, 666 Broadway, Rm 625, New York NY 10012.*

### **Participant Directory**

To serve all of us participants and to raise dollars for the parliament, consider selling a directory of all organizations with address and phone number -- ad perhaps your computer list of participants. This would be extremely valuable to all of us who wish to be in communication!

### **Questions and Answers**

The ????? are the same -- the answers evolve. We have been introduced, sometimes inspired, sometimes overwhelmed, by our differences thus far in Parliament. Now it is time to identify what we have in common . . . what dream do we share? Since mankind became self-conscious, we have asked 4 questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? Why am I here? As we seek to answer the questions anew, let us remember to love one another.

*Dr Barbara Condron*

### **Back Issues Of Your Voice**

Copies of issues #1, #2, #3 are still available from TogetherNet offices on 6th Floor.

### **We Are Our Own Metaphor**

This Parliament, in both its structures and processes, is a metaphor for an image of inter-faith dialogue. We can learn from what is going less well as well as from what may appear to be going too well. It is worthwhile being wary of the assumption that the event is without a shadow. Surely the assembled wise can address such matters -- or will they be encouraged to "wallow in light"?

### **Parliamentary Proclamation**

This Parliament must proclaim:

1. That all paths ascend the same mountain (there is one truth, expressed in different cultural contexts);
  2. All religions must relinquish the desire for control which prompts them to proclaim that only they have the "true" religion;
  3. It is no longer acceptable to use "development" as a euphemism for destruction of people's culture and devastation of their land and sacred places;
  4. Create a permanent Parliament -- a spiritual UN.
- Martha Sachs, Monclair NJ (201) 746-5361.*

### **Inter-Faith Education**

To promote inter-faith education throughout Canada, to initiate inter-faith education projects across Canada bringing together people of different faiths, to help establish and support global inter-faith educational initiatives and projects, to emphasize local community service and sound development principles and strategies

in all activities as an example of inter-faith cooperation in education.

*Mark McAvery, World Inter-faith Education Association, Victoria BC (604) 360-1259.*

### **Parliamentary Cover-Up**

It is sad to learn that the Assembly of Spiritual and Religious Leaders has been designed in large part to simply rubber stamp the Declaration written (by whom?) in advance of their encounter at the Parliament. So much for co-creation through dialogue! This is of course standard UN practice which the Parliament seems bent on imitating without examining its shortcomings.

### **Wisdom and Foolishness**

"Where is the wise person? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know Him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand miraculous signs and Gentiles look for wisdom, but we preach Jesus Christ crucified; a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles -- But to those whom God has called, both Jews and Gentiles, Jesus Christ the Power of God and the Wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength."

*Bible: 1 Corinthians 1: 20-25*

### **Maps of Religion**

We are a Christian research institute which studies the demographics of religion, globally. We hold large databases, constantly maintained, on religion by country; ethnolinguistic peoples; languages; cities; on the 23000 Christian denominations. *Michael Jaffarian, World Evangelization Research Center, Rockville, VA, (804) 353-6655*

### **Bindu's Photocopy Service**

Remember you can have copies made locally with a pick up and delivery service to the hotel, or at the TogetherNet 6th Floor. You can phone direct to "Copies Now" (312) 236-5587.

**To ensure receipt of messages, use orange box on TogetherNet counter, 6th Floor**

## Not To Condemn . . .

. . . the genocide in Bosnia, Tibet and Kurdistan -- amongst others -- is to debase the potential of this Congress and to condemn it into impotency.

## Genetic Code

I would like to see some workshops on the study of RNA and DNA Helix as it pertains to the truth placed in the inward parts (cells via RNA / DNA) and in the Heart. Through scientific study based upon spiritual confirmation mankind will be or is enabled to take quantum leaps in consciousness. Help us to leap!!  
Leaping in Love.  
JamCleeretta, 14-122

## Life's Lessons

Physical life with its apparent tragedy and suffering provide an excuse and motivation to learn to love, love and heal one another.

## Restraint

I agree with the "Open Letter" by Ellen Fremedon to the Registrants and Organizers of the Parliament

- asking for restraint in applause of spiritual practices on display and applause in the middle of speakers
- need for an open meeting (Thurs pm?) to hear unaddressed agendas
- getting to the deeper questions re: religions superiority.

Cathie Holcombe

## Dialogue

I still talk in my sleep  
I still dream  
How can there be perfect stillness  
When my brain's so noisy?  
We carry on a constant dialogue within ourselves. This is the origin of our problems.  
The very word *dialogue* means talking between two sides. We could not have an inner dialogue unless there was a split in our minds. We all have two sides; as long as they are not united, we cannot attain the wholeness that spirituality requires. Rather than shutting away the unpleasant or unruly aspects of ourselves, we must take them all out

and examine them. Daily introspection brings harmony to all our facets. Those aspects that are bad can be dissolved. Those that are of advantage can be cultivated. This effort will take many years, but in this gradual way, we resolve ourselves with our subconscious mind and free ourselves from struggle and conflict.

## Regarding AIDS

We propose that the leaders of the world's churches and spiritual institutions stand in the forefront by doing the following :

- commit to bringing understanding, love and spiritual healing to those afflicted with AIDS, to their families and to their care givers;
- Do whatever we can to remove the stigma attached to the disease and to those who have it;
- Help ease away the fear of death and dying from the terminally ill;
- Resolve to help prevent the further spread of AIDS, within our churches and within the larger society;
- Support the demand for research to find a cure for AIDS and the HIV Virus.

Ma Jaya Bhagavati

## Alliance for Spiritual Community

We proclaim and affirm the spiritual nature of all communities. See our message "Grassroots Interfaith Dialogue in *Your Voice* #4 and note our fax number below.  
Kay Lindahl, Laguna Niguel, CA, (714) 496-5535.

## Build A Better World Together

Together we the humanity have to build a better world for us and our children. There should not be an earth with plenty of weapons, distrust, discrimination and confliction -- Be conscious and tolerate ourselves to save the world. Buddha blesses you and all of us.

Thich Ba Quang, Sakyamum Buddhist Centre, Dickson ACT, Australia, +61 (62) 575517.

## Good Food And Economic Justice

Heal the land and ourselves with the concepts of community supported agriculture and bio-dynamic technologies that can bring about vitalization of a land and the people who work the land. Farmers are the food producers for us all.

Jean Schlincklin, Organic Growers, Kalamazoo, MI, (517) 6253211

## What If?

What if...

... we put aside all our agendas for this week long enough to hear what Life has in mind for us?  
... the way you and I touched each other really did change the world?  
... we could really laugh together this week?  
... we made every conversation, every grouping, a safe place for one another to be ourselves?  
... we came here to learn instead of showing how learned we were?  
... we could build a container this week among us that could safely hold all our polarities and paradoxes in one place?  
... I came here to be changed rather than to change you?  
... we wondered together about the things that we seem so sure of?  
... I opened my heart to you, instead of telling you what I think about that you think?  
... I took the time to be present?  
... I really listened to your story?  
... we were a microcosm of all the dynamics at work on this earth, and that our inner shifts and breakthroughs in relationship to one another, magnified into the world?  
... the real leaders here were those leading the way in opening the heart and catching the vision of who we really are together? How many leaders would there be in this assembly? Thousands?  
... there were a river that wanted to run though here this week? And what if we undammed it?  
... there were a place where we met, behind the chaos, and behind the harmony?

### World of Peace

When the hearts of all come to be in harmony with the Will of God, it will be the beginning of the world of true peace. Our colors and our features differ. In the eyes of God, however, we are all the same, residents of the earth. When everyone prays in harmony together for world peace and joy, its misfortunes and disasters will disappear more quickly.

*Mokichi Okada (1882-1955), Japanese philosopher and founder of Sekai Kyusei Kyo, Atami, Japan*

### Healing Separateness

What a great privilege and joy it is, to be in the company of so many souls dedicated to the case of overcoming the root cause of so much suffering throughout history -- separateness and animosity among religions. Each of us must make this our way of life. This prayer by Ann Ru Colton (1895-1984) is a wonderful daily dedication: "My sympathies seek to be more compassionate each day. Today I shall fill my heart with tenderness and understanding, for I would heal the wounds of separateness."

*Rev. Patrick Madden, Nisience Foundation, Glendale, California*

### The Role of Shouting Matches

The Monday morning shouting matches were exactly what we needed to challenge our repeated assertions that we are the enlightened and loving elite. We are part of the problem. Love is neither easy nor cheap. Unity is not simplistic conformity. To use the Gospel image, if we're serious about building this tower, we'd better count the cost.

*George Dole, Swedenborg School of Religion, Sharon, MA (617) 244-0504*

### Inclusive Spirit of Religion

As a result of the dialogues begun following the 1893 Parliament, we now understand the process by which religious expressions come into being which empowers us not only to boldly create new, more inclusive expressions of the Spirit of Religion in the context of our own traditions, but we can now even eliminate those expressions in our traditions which we discover are contradictory to the Spirit without fear of "throwing out the baby with the bath water".

*Douglas Larson, River Forest, Illinois  
312 694 2700*

### Wonderful Work

Please accept my compliments for the good work you are doing. It is important that we know the voices of our fellow delegates and you are doing it in a wonderful way. So I felt like writing a few lines to you.

Please convey my congratulations to all the organizers of the Parliament for the excellent work they have done. As one who organizes an average of one youth camp every month in India, I know how much effort it takes to do a program on this vast scale. They have done wonderfully.

### Lessons in Prayer?

I propose that before each of us leaves the Parliament, we ask someone of a religious different from our own to teach us a brief prayer/ritual for world peace and unity, and that we commit ourselves to offering this prayer once each day hereafter.

*Brother Joseph Kilikevics, O.P  
Dominican Friars, Oak Park IL.*

### Mirrors

Thoughts held in mind produce after their kind. We generate our experiences from our beliefs and judgments. What we believe in comes to be. Our lives are mirror reflections of our mind energy. Trace fear and hostility back to Love. Believe in the Divinity within you, and you will manifest your greatest good!

*Jeanne Copeland, Divine Science (New Thought Christian), St Louis, MI, (314) 843-5675*

### Interfaith Ecology Groups

NACCE is engaged in facilitating the formation of ecumenical and interfaith ecology action groups around North America.

*Elizabeth Dyson, North American Conference on Christianity & Ecology  
St Paul, MN 612 698 0349*

Elizabeth: please come and see me in TogetherNet, 6th Floor. I'm with the Global Action Plan and David Gershon, Nadia McLaren

### Growing Unity

Peace will come as we see, One by One, a TRUTH exists beyond all "this". UNITY wanting to "be" mankind continues to grow.

### Spiritual Growth Network

The network promotes a discerning awareness of one's being and becoming by focusing on spiritual growth and guidance. It provides training and research in a variety of methods of spiritual and psychological discipline. Our purpose is to progressively free ourselves of ALL oppression, both internal and external.

*John Parks, Spiritual Growth Network  
Lexington, Ke 606 269 6588*

### Joseph Campbell Foundation

The Foundation seeks to promote the vision of Joseph Campbell: Publishing the posthumous works; collecting and cataloguing his papers; promoting mythological education and sponsoring conferences, workshops and seminars to sharpen and improve the response to religious and cultural fundamentalism.

*Anthony Van Couvering, Joseph Campbell Foundation, New York, (212) 633-6145*

### Are Some Missing?

Where is the church of scientology at this Parliament? I am not affiliated with that religion, but given their propensity to seek public exposure, I find it odd that they seem un-represented.

*Anon*

### Ethical Humanism

For those who want to support, preserve and encourage a pluralistic, naturalistic humanism that seeks truth unfettered by creed, authority, or source, and who seek the best that reason, science and human experience can offer us in living our lives.

Ethical Culture (Ethical Humanism) is a religious alternative committed to the worth and dignity of the individual. Our faith is in the capacity and responsibility of human beings to act in their personal relationships and in the larger community to help create a better world.

*Joan Johnson, Fellowship of Religious Humanists, Chicago, IL (312) 338-5493*

### Needs For Morning Meditation

Please make sure that there is a microphone available to the leader of the morning meditation sessions.

Is there a way to turn off the air conditioning during the meditation. It is very cold in the Wabash Parlor.

*David Robin*

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### **Interfaith or Sacrilege?**

Can it possibly be that the "Lyceum of Venus" is representing "Sacred Shinto Dance" in the presence of groups of traditional members of that faith? Is something wrong with this picture?

### **Silence -- When?**

Many of us believe in the power of silence. Why do some of us need to "lead" our experience of silence and explain that experience? Why do some strive so hard to occupy that silence with music and others with words? May we have a campaign against the colonization of silence by neo-colonial spiritual forces? Some of us fought so hard for our liberation from spiritual banalities. Silence is golden! How about some speech-free zones? Enough bombardment with pretty words!

### **Closing Ceremony**

Be a "ribbon bearer" for the closing ceremony. Volunteers are needed to carry sections of "The Ribbon" as we open the final plenary session in Grant Park on Saturday Sept. 4. "The Ribbon" is a collection of banners that have been made for the Parliament by people all over the world. The general public as well as Parliament registrants are warmly invited to participate in this display of "The Ribbon". Following the procession of dignitaries, you may stay to enjoy the closing ceremony.

To participate, gather between 4:30 and 5:00 pm at our staging site directly opposite the bandshell, northeast corner of the block, at Lake Shore Dr. and Monroe. There is no need to sign up in advance, but if you required additional information, please call (708) 510-0668 or (708) 665-0123.

### **Mailing List**

I want to add my voice to the many, many others asking that a mailing list of ALL Parliament attendees be made available, for sale if need be!  
*Brendan Tripp, Eschaton Productions, Inc*

### **Education Curricula**

I would like to combine ideas of ecology and spirituality with concepts found in the world religions to establish curriculum for secondary schools as well as higher education. I have my master's degree in religious

studies, undergraduate degree in the teaching of science. I need reading materials and contact with organizations that support this ideas, a job opportunity and access to the email system at the University of Michigan (no personal computer).  
*Sheri S Pingel, Dexter, Michigan, (313) 426-4704*

### **Sustainable Culture**

I am working to understand what would be required to have a truly sustainable culture, and what the essential steps toward that culture would be.  
*Duane Sweeney, Bellingham, WA, (206) 734-2781*

### **The Art of Change**

Are you longing to express yourself artistically? An art studio and opportunity to create your *own* work of art here at the Parliament is part of the 10:00 - 12 noon session in PDR #9 during an Interfaith, Multi-cultural Collaboration on Friday.

Artistic creation is often inspired by the spirit. These are questions you may use at any time to reflect on your moments of artistic inspiration :

- What medium, colors, shapes did you select to express your experiences?
- What images do you observe?
- What thoughts, prayers, feelings were you aware of during the time you were creating your work of art?
- What is your own creativity expressing to you about the journey of change in your life?
- What title will you give to your work?

Haiku is a Japanese poetry form consisting of seventeen syllables, often used to capture the essence of an experience. Create a haiku describing your journey of transformation.

### **Limited Access To The Council**

There seems to be no way to send any message to the Parliament Management. Why? It is clear that the sale and scope of this Parliament overwhelmed the organizers. Apparently, in self defense, the management decision making level has insulated itself so well as to be impossible to reach, even to those offering suggestions or aid.

### **Transcripts of Proceedings?**

I would like transcripts, not tapes, of proceedings. The tape sellers in the exhibit hall know nothing about print transcripts. How do we found out?

### **Spiritual Alchemists Needed**

Do "leaders", spiritual and otherwise, need to be transmuted into "golders"?

### **Great Works To Come**

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works I do; and greater works than these."  
*The Bible : John*

### **Religion Is Not Exclusive**

If this Parliament of Religions has shown anything to the world it is this : It has proved to the world that holiness, purity, and charity are not the exclusive possessions of any church, and that every system has produced men and women of the most exalted character.

In the face of this evidence if anybody dreams of the exclusive survival of his own religion and the destruction of the others, I pity him from the bottom of my heart, and point out to him that upon the banner of every religion will soon be written in spite of resistance : "Help and Not Fight", "Assimilation and Not Destruction". "Harmony and Peace and Not Dissension"  
*Swami Vivekananda, 1893 Parliament of Religions*

I hold a vision for a world of peace and love. A critical mass of humanity must be willing to give up the past and live in the present in order to make the leap into this future vision. We *will* do it; we *will* establish Planet Earth as Planet of Peace and Love. When depends on each of us. World Peace is a Personal Choice.  
*Jeanie Marshall, Marshall House / Target fro Peace\*\*\*Targets for Love, Santa Monica, CA; (310) 458-1172*

### **Love and Harmony**

Love and harmony are one. In no other way is spirituality expressed except through the harmony of love which exceeds all negation.  
*Ann Ru Colton (1895-1984), Nisience Foundation, Glendale, CA*

### **Talk Dialogue -- Do Monologue?**

Is this the way?  
*Soo Do Nim*

### **Two Gems From My Journal**

If, in everything you do you think of God, then God is there and that is prayer!

### **Like Rays of the Sun**

We All are One!

*Laura, Rm 14-122; home (703) 533-7508*

### **Spiritual Homecoming**

I came to Chicago because I believe in the luring power of shared visions. As religious leaders we may play a pivotal role in creating a vision of a more humane and spiritually alive world. For many of us, coming to this Parliament is nothing less than a pilgrimage -- a spiritual homecoming. It is always the case, however, that after mountaintop peak experiences, we are called to descend the mountain to encounter once again the face of human need. May we all be granted the wisdom, power and courage to translate the concentrated energy of spiritual aliveness we feel this week into living visions for those within our circle of influence. Blessings,  
*David Jojns, Malone College, Canton, OH (216) 471-8314.*

### **Need Videos Copied?**

Phone "Copies Now" (312) 236-5587 for pickup and delivery, or leave at TogetherNet, 6th Floor

### **Trees of the Forest**

There are trees behind trees beyond forests, leaves that dance always to their gold turning. The sun hides inside a pinecone, waits for the spring. Each sunlit cone holds the one bird that sings. Inside the bark of trees one tongue that whispers : There is only one tree.

*Therese J Becker, Lake Orion, MI, (313) 391-1093*

### **Why Does It Have To Be So Hard?**

I hate to say this, but it is so hard to figure out the schedule, and it is so hard to get answers to simple questions about anything, that I have begun to doubt that I should ever have taken the Parliament seriously, or come here at all. Why is communicating with the management of this convention so difficult? A lot of people are upset about this.

### **Spiritual Authority?**

The "Assembly of Religious and Spiritual Leaders" meets in closed session and gives it's report at the end of the Parliament. It is difficult not to be extremely insulted by this arrangement. We of small denominations are by this defined as not "religious leaders". A great many people are fed up with these "we'll tell you" forms of organization. What is the Parliament, if it is not ALL of us. I did not select or authorize anyone to represent me here save myself. By whose authority do those "more than 150" speak?

*Anonymous*

### **My Complaint**

There's no Problems / Complaints / Suggestion Boxes!

### **Alma Ata vs. Chicago**

The 1st World Congress towards Spiritual Concord was held in Alma Ata (Kazakhstan) in September 1992 on the invitation of the President of the poorest country with the most nuclear warheads -- partly in anticipation of the 1893 Centennial celebrations around the world. It brought together many of the religious and spiritual leaders from Central Asia, as well as Orthodox Christians, Theosophists, Sufis and spiritual healers -- some 3,000 people. There was magic in the air. Some of us struggled mightily there to ensure that there was a meditation room in the conference hotel, with only partial success. Amazingly for a post-totalitarian society, many unscheduled groups were able to lay out their literature. The security services were barely visible. In Chicago some of us have struggled mightily to lay out our materials with only partial success. The security services are highly visible. Is this a classic example of Taoist role reversal?

*Tony Judge, Union of International Associations, Brussels.*

### **Literature Display Tables (Latest!)**

Thank you dear organizers for responding to our plea concerning Message Board space on the 4th Floor. You will note that the tripled space is now overflowing -- such is the desire for communication amongst participants for some form of dialogue. Please note that earlier fears

preventing this were unwarranted. But give-away literature is still subject to hotel "housecleaning" reinforced by the same fears. The option of setting out tables in the Exhibit Area is now rejected because the exhibitors who paid \$1,500 per booth would object. Is that really the case or just a trumped up excuse?

### **Lord**

If you forgive  
My little jokes on Thee  
I'll forgive  
Your great big one on me.  
*Robert Frost*

### **Religions in Solidarity With Women**

We call on all women and men attending this Parliament to appeal to the organizers to launch :

*A Decade of Religions in Solidarity With Women*

in order to encourage greater visibility and participation of women in all areas of religious life. All are invited to sign the petition attached to the Notice Board on 4th Floor  
*Dr. U. King and Dr. J Martin, Rm 10-168.*

### **A Glimpse**

Strangers in crowded elevators  
Reading each other's chests to find  
"What is the path that led you here?"  
I proudly bare my heart to you  
So grateful for this taste of  
What the world could become,  
Should become, would and will  
become  
If we can hold this essence  
When we leave the safety of this  
womb  
To resume the discretion and patience  
Needed for survival on the not-ready  
streets  
Yet never closing our hearts, or eyes,  
Ourselves  
But rather, accepting the challenges of  
diversity  
With more abundance, love and  
passion  
Than ever before.  
Feed the starving soul of humanity  
With the prasad of this place where  
we are  
Never again to be strangers  
*Anonymous*

O God, may our hearts crack open.  
May our blood flow.  
O God, Thank you.

**To ensure receipt of messages, use orange box on TogetherNet counter, 6th Floor**

# Your Voice

# #6

## CENSORSHIP OF YOUR VOICE?

Your opinions seem to be annoying somebody on high! The message boxes have been "cleared" from the 4th Floor -- with any messages that you put in them. Sorry to those of you whose messages have been lost to us.

Distribution of Your Voice has also become a real challenge.

Any copies of the newsletter left for you to pick up on the 4th Floor are also "cleared".

Protest has been of no avail.

Neither the organizers nor the hotel seem to be interested. We have just heard that the

TogetherNet office on the 6th Floor from which Your Voice is produced has suddenly been

"required for another convention" -- as from Friday night. We will continue to produce from a "secret" location! We will be open as long as possible from the TogetherNet booth.

## Free Literature Display Tables

The latest news is that the organizers have allocated tables for free distribution of materials at the back of the Exhibition Space. Information placed here should be safe from the cleaning staff. Unfortunately, this is an out-of-the way place, but perhaps it is better than nothing at the last minute. Why was it such a big deal?

## Future Joke

A newspaper reporter interviewed a famous and respected futurist, who had made a great number of insightful and accurate prophecies about grand world trends. The reporter asked: "Professor, are you optimistic or pessimistic about our future?" The Professor replied enthusiastically that

he was optimistic, but as he spoke a deep frown spread across his brow. The reporter asked: "Why do you appear worried?" The Professor considered this question, and, scratching his chin, replied: "To tell the truth, I don't know if my optimism is justified."

## Catalogue of Hope #2

The International Futures Library in Salzburg/Robert Jungk Foundation is planning to edit a second edition of *A Catalogue of Hope*. Its aim is to describe positive, alternative movements and initiatives from all over the world to increase the amount of positive, encouraging action. You are kindly invited to send (self) descriptions to / or contact *International Futures Library, Imbergstrasse 2, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria.*

## Well Woman

Our organization is committed to empowering women to transform their physical, emotional and spiritual lives by making available educational and inspirational resources and events. The *Menopause Wellness Directory* will be available fall 1993. A menopause conference is being formed for spring 1994.

*Alia Mone, Well Woman, Seattle, WA; (206) 523-9585 X 135*

## Varieties of Human Potential

We are revising the information on some 4,000 concepts of human development and modes of awareness collected from every discipline and spiritual tradition -- including 170 yogas! This complements the information on 13,000 world problems described together with it in our *Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential* (1991). New edition mid-1994. Do you have documentation on problems or modes of spiritual development that you believe are not well-recognized? Especially less tangible ones. Send to *Nadia McLaren, 40 rue Washington, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium. Fax +32 2 6460525.*

## Poetry-Making And Policy-Making

The director of The School of Poetry (Vienna) commissioned a 1993 presentation on the relevance of poetry and aesthetics to policy-making. Anyone interested in a 90-page review of this theme, explored through the metaphor of arranging a marriage between Beauty and the Beast? Contact:

*Anthony Judge, ULA, 40 rue Washington, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.*

## A Meditation From The 16th Floor

(Take several deep breaths to clear and still the mind)

My mind and the universal mind are one

My voice and the universal voice are one

My heart and the universal heart are one

Aum prana, aum prana, aum prana  
Aum suria, aum suria, aum suria  
The earth and I are one

My spirit and the universal spirit are one

Please guide me in being of service on this place

Please guide me in being of service to this planet

Please guide me in being of service to this universe

## Truth

Truth cannot be defined with words, only by living ... Truth can never become man's possession without faith. This is true because man's thoughts, wisdom, ethics, and ideals will never rise higher than his faith, his sublime hope. And all such time faith is predicated on profound reflection, sincere self-criticism and uncompromising moral consciousness. Faith is the inspiration of the spiritized creative imagination.

*Byron Belitos*

### **Prayer**

Pray for a deepening awareness of our similarities and common needs

### **Place of Peace**

Peace Place serves as an oasis where people may experience peace, dialogue about inner-peace related subjects, study and share vegetarian cooking and meditation practice and create together adventures that harmonize spirituality and the land. A year-round organic garden blesses this city lot with abundance - peace and new connections are always welcome. *Harriet Kofalk, Peace Place, Eugene, OR; (503) 343-525*

### **Under-development**

I am most interested in communicating with God-conscious persons of all faiths on application of religious principles to human problems of under-development, poverty and resource reallocation. People to people contact is very important.

*Mtangulizi Sanyika, National Council of Churches Interfaith Working Group, Hercules, CA; (510) 799-2618*

### **Advisor On Global Community**

I am available to advise diverse groups and organizations on how to build global community and resolve conflicts for our local action.

Experience of the United Natives, Earth Summit, International Groups and local religious groups.

*Virginia Swain, Cambridge, MA; (617) 225-0403*

### **Religious Profiles For Dialogue**

The Center for International Studies (Brigham Young University) produces *Culturgrams* which are 4-page profiles of individual cultures. They have one for every 150 countries as briefings for those who need to dialogue cross-culturally. They are starting a new initiative. *ReligioGuides* will be produced (with your help!) in the form of 4-page profiles, one each for some 150 religious traditions. These will endeavour to identify key pointers to facilitate inter-faith dialogue. A prototype has been produced for Islam. Contact: Lynn Tyler, *Center for International Studies, 273 HRCB BYU, Provo UT 84602. (801) 378-2652.*

### **Being Together**

There is one place in this Parliament where dialogue is actually free and uncontrolled. Dialogue in washrooms is proving very significant. The word is: "If you can Pee together, then you can Be together" (Gospel of John).

Overheard at the Assembly of Spiritual ad Religious Leaders, a report of an encounter between two leaders who had had a really fruitful discussion in the bathroom.

Fortunately they did not need facilitators!

### **A Call to Action!**

We must place action over philosophy and platitudes. Only by so doing will we truly confront and with the victory over AIDS and its stigma; Bosnia and all other examples of Genocide, world hunger and displaced peoples. Act now in the name of God, for God is to be found in experiences not in philosophical inaction. God bless us All.

*Saul Barodofsky, Sufi Islamia Ruhianat Society, Chicago, IL (312) 944-4100*

### **Resource Injustice**

The West, USA and Japan are enjoying the 75% of the world's resources and exploiting this whole world. Also their rich people in the third world countries are in collaboration with this First World. The poor and the middle-class must come together, and God is with them, and fight for their rights.

*Thomas Kocherry, National Fishworkers Forum, Kochi, India; +91 484 370427*

### **Multicultural Talents Wanted**

MCA of Ponca City Inc is seeking interested persons of the world community to give input, consultation or educating public about diversity, unity, understanding and acceptance of the global community either as a member (no fee) or as a correspondent.

*Tammy Miller-Oates, Multicultural Alliance of Ponca City Inc Ponca City, OK 405 765 3178*

### **Greetings from Oklahoma!**

Would like to carry forward beautiful interfaith spirit with activities in the Oklahoma, Sth Kansas area. I love dialogue and presenting diversity. I am the chairman of the local Multi-Cultural Alliance so I have

many resources. Love to all whom we met.

*Tony Oates, Multi-Cultural Alliance of Ponca City Inc Ponca City, OK*

### **Ending Religious Bloodshed**

Dedicated to a bold promise for global peace and an end to religious violence. The RFP is an organization and strategy for accomplishing the end of bloodshed which is justified, excused or motivated by religious concerns by the year 2005. the strategy involves developing, supporting and enhancing profound communication and relationship between individuals and groups of different religious and philosophies.

*Eileen Epperson, The Religious Freedom Project, Marlborough MA 58 624 7284*

### **Expand The Parliament**

I repeat my big concern: all the beautiful talks that we have heard from so varied a spectrum of learned speakers should carry meaning to the outside world, especially the youths. So on September 4, 1993, the Parliament of the World's Religions should not conclude, but should expand to the whole world.

A message must go out from Chicago to the world; but the message must be backed by a meaningful program. The Program will be more effective if the initiative for the same rests in the hands of the millions of people in the world, than in a central point. The Parliament HQ may prepare a flyer that gives guidelines for any layman to initiate a Center.

We may call it a Peace Center or a Harmony Center. They will invite all residents of the locality at least to meet once every month, have all religions prayers and discuss local problems and their solutions.

Local Centres will help the spiritual growth of the population in their areas. It is spiritually uplifted individuals who could build a better, happier, peaceful and just world.

*S N Subba Rao, National Youth Project, Okemos, MI, (517) 337 7888*

### **Let There Be Honor**

and acceptance of spiritual beliefs, practices and words we as humans use in attempting to represent spirit on earth.

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### Individual Commitment

This Parliament has demonstrated that all people in the universe have needs. One group, people, culture, or religion does not have to take from another to have their needs met when everyone gives. All people in the universe also have understandings, wisdom, and gifts. Let us commit ourselves individually to offering our gifts and understandings so all people will benefit.

*Ref. Laurel Fuller, International Church of Metaphysics, Sindyville, MO; (417) 345-8411*

### Thank You

We have had the opportunity to thank the presenters and facilitators for what they have given, but most of us have not had the opportunity to thank the people who spend the last several years or months labouring to make this phenomenal event happen. I don't know your faces, or all of your names, but I couldn't go home in peace without taking the opportunity to thank you with all of my heart for your vision and your labours and your courage to face the challenges. I know I thank you on behalf of everyone at the Parliament, as well as on behalf of all members of the world community who will ultimately and inevitably benefit from what has been started here.

*Tayria Ward - La Crescenta, California*

### To The World's Spiritual Leaders

My personal wishes and dreams for your gathering include :

- 1) Each of you know you have a piece of the cosmic puzzle.
- 2) Each of you know you have a pieces.
- 3) That each of you do something beyond your usual to bring this energy to focus.
- 4) Accept my love and blessing.
- 5) Open Your heart.
- 6) Laugh.
- 7) Forego ego.

### Abandon Labels

If we all give up our labels then we will be one. The moment we tell someone what we are they draw conclusions and stereotypes about us and if they call themselves something different, there is an immediate wall put up between us.

*Anon*

### Light of Unity

So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole world  
*Baha'u'llah*

### Sharing

If we cannot share the same hotel and conference, how can we expect to share the world? If we must take our ball and go home, where is home going to be? If religion=love, is this a true religion? The heart, just as the world, must have room for everyone. Please heal your heart and return to this great effort. Thank you.

*Amelia Zirkle, Stoughton Wl, (608) 873-5011*

### Role of Religion

The proper role of religion is to provide a spiritual basis for humanity to understand, accept, and grapple with changing circumstances as the challenges of tomorrow unfold.

*Minor Lile, Theosophical Society in Seattle, Seattle, SQ (206) 726-6176*

### Urantia

Come listen to an address and panel on the Urantia Book by UCC Minis, Dr Meredith Sprunger, Friday, 7.00 PM, Parlor A, 6th floor, a vision for the second axial age. Namaste.

*Gard Jameson, Fellowship readers of the Urantia Book*

### Interfaith Source Book

In order to initiate Pagan Interfaith dialogue on a global level, we are creating a source book for the future dialogue. we do this to build on the visions of Pagans and other traditions that are attending the Parliament. Please write about your experiences, desires, insights, anything you feel will build dialogue or spirit moves for you to share.

We will be collecting these documents at 6.00-6.30 pm Friday on the 6th Floor Lobby. Also you can mail it to: Ed Hubbard, 3257 W Eastwood, Chicago, IL 60625. It is our goal to have this completed by Sept 23, 1993.

### A Vision

Having attended the meditation in the Lacquer room, this lunch time I feel that I must share with the vision that I was shown. This is the first time I have attended a Parliament of the People function). I first of all saw the globe, with the mother of the world standing on the top of it, her arms outstretched.

Then I saw the white swan, which I believe is a symbol of the divine messenger. Lastly I was shown the figure 4, and told these were the cornerstones of the temple. Thus the cosmic was manifesting in the physical, here at this meeting.

*Natalie Watson, New World Academy England*

### The Institute of Ecolonomics

Founded by Dennis Weaver, well known actor and humanitarian. It is a non-profit foundation whose goal is to be a clearing house and support system for the new environmentally safe and economically sound businesses.

*Bob Saltzman, The Institute for Ecolonomics, Ridgway, CO, (619) 944 7422*

### Eschaton Productions Inc.

Formed to publish poetry, fiction, essays and research papers; to produce audio and video recordings of fading traditions and ephemeral moments in art; to stage events which help to lift the veil of our race's sleep and help it drag itself into clear, brutal light.

*Brendan Tripp, Eschaton Productions Inc., Chicago, IL 312 751 1440*

### Thanks For Grant Park Ceremony

To: Covenant of the Goddess; Earth-spirit, and those affiliated organizations:

Thank you for making Wednesday's ceremony in Grant Park a public one. I was moved by its beauty, and heartened by its message.

### Return of the Elephant

I would like to respond to Cornerstone Research team's interpretation of the blind men/elephant parable. Religion is not a win/lose situation. An adherent of any religious system is a winner if he/she finds answers and a path s/he can follow. If no religion tells the whole truth (because the infinite cannot be contained in any system devised by finite humans) then your use of the word "lying" is not justifiable. all religions are human creations, and to say they are lying in their finiteness implies maliciousness and intent to lead people astray.

Also, let me add my voice in favor of a resolution universally condemning genocide.

*Love, Andy*

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### Care For The Details

If everyone would bring their own cup and use it we would not be throwing away all this plastic. We are here to talk about mother earth yet like many others we do things for our short term convenience. Could we be more aware in these seemingly small matters (which do all add up!)

Anon

### Create a Newsletter

Allow us to submit information about what we are doing in the community and personally. The sharing could then continue and we won't lose this marvellous energy.

### Body and Soul

What will the world be like when individuals know they are a soul with a physical body rather than a body with a soul somewhere? How the perspective of self will evolve and the problems we now seem to face will be transformed in the light of who we truly are. We will see the world anew. Perhaps then we can be in the world but not it.

*Barbara Condon, Chair of School of Metaphysics, Ordination Board Member of International Church of Metaphysics.*

### The Incredible Fund

If we would all agree to tax ourselves every time we say "incredible" we could have the means to do something credible. Or,

Notice how many times the word "incredible" is used and what it really means. It can be used for something very good as well as very, very bad, but how can we believe in it if it is in-credible - there is always another work to better explain our feeling - Let's start to use that "other" word to make it become CREDIBLE!

*Piero M, Your Voice*

### Hearts United

A "world divided" prayer network of the Dena Foundation is linking individuals/groups with a common purpose: LOVE IN ACTION through prayer hearts united chooses specific projects and prays specific lengths of time. The Parliament Of The World's Religions is our current project. Call or write to participate in this network.

*San Lynn Merrick, Hearts United/The Dena Foundation, Independence, MO, (816) 796-3242.*

### Singing For Humankind

Come together and sing a song for the 21st century. Sing of the unity and the renewal of humankind. Universal communal harmony is rooted in gender harmony. So nurture basic trust in home/family life. Could the pastors preach "Dialogue Sermons" in the Churches? Could the U.S.A. and India promote creative dialogue?

*Neekupa John, Community Wholistic growth Center, Inc., St. Louis, MO, (314) 644-8136.*

### Interfaith Chapel in Houston

The Rothko Chapel is a place alive with religious ceremonies of all faiths. It is a place where the experience and understanding of all traditions are encouraged and made available. More, and more the chapel has become a rallying place for all people concerned with peace, freedom, and social justice throughout the world.

*Nabila Drooby, The Rothko Chapel, Houston, TX, (713) 524-7461.*

### Society For Spirituality And Social Work

Our national network of human service educators and workers are reclaiming the dimension of spirituality. Become part of this inclusive cutting edge initiative contact.

*Patrick O'Brien, Patrick AFB, FL, (407) 783-3169.*

### World Government for Peace

At the Parliament of the World's Religion, there has been much talk about a necessary connection for a lasting and just peace - peace among the world religions. This is absolutely necessary but not sufficient. There has been very little talk about another necessary condition: restructuring the system of national sovereignty by an effective democratic world federal government. Only this will eliminate the war system and better solve global problems.

World law, created by a democratic World Parliament and enforced by a World court and World Executive, is also necessary for world peace. Individuals who violate world law must be arrested and prosecuted as world criminals. Conflict of interests between nations could then be decided non-violently through the World Court and by country votes instead of counting weapons of mass destruction.

A global Bible of rights would protect everyone's rights. The practice of the ideals of a global ethic, peace among the religions, and effective democratic world federal government are all necessary conditions. Only together are they sufficient for world peace and justice. This Parliament of World's Religions must not neglect the necessity of world law.

*David Oughton - St Louis*

### We're Too Segregated Still

Please consider a Parliament for the year 2000. This parliament was wonderful, but I noted that people tended to stay with their own group in the breakout sessions. Please, if it is repeated, include lots of group activities that force (yes force) us to dialogue - we need to get to know each other! Christians tended to associate with Christians and Hindu with Hindu etc. Many sessions I attended were Sikh and was the only one of two non-Sikh's there, etc.

### Illinois Support Group

I want to establish a support/growth group to deepen awareness of spiritual values and their ability to impact our lives/world. It would provide a safe place where people could deeply share with each other. We would network with groups elsewhere in order to strengthen spiritual forces as a corrective to world situations.

*Garth Lehman, Spiritual Growth Network, Danville, IL, (217) 431-6531.*

### Inter-Sectoral Dialogue

Is it reasonable to expect the various religions of the world to achieve unity when the various sects of the religion cannot? I am christian and it astounds me when I think of the number of Protestant sects there are alone without considering the others. I would like to see some ongoing dialogue between the various Christian groups as preparation for unity with all.

*Anon*

### My Intention

is to live with compassion and tenderness : tools which carry the frequency of Love. So be it!

### I Pray

that the will of the Creator prevails in the hearts of human kind.  
Amen

## Parliament of the People: Hopes, Dreams and Visions

*This issue of Your Voice is dedicated to the visions that were described during the first session of the Parliament of the People. The facilitating group for the Parliament of the People has grouped the visions according to a set of categories that emerged from reviewing the visions. The major categories for the visions were **Consciousness, Process, Structure and Reality**; with sub-categories within each of these major groups -- given the holistic nature of reality, however, there are quite a few visions that could easily fit in more than one group. The visions included here are all those that were described during Tuesday's session; they do not reflect a consensus; while there are many, many common threads among the visions, there are also significant tensions and apparent incompatibilities.*

### Reality

#### Transformation of Politics

- A shift from economics as a basis for political action to spirituality (love)
- World government to facilitate world parliament ideas.
- A politics of compassion and humility
- A transformational model for the secular world fostering dialogue, spirituality and opportunities for interaction
- The spiritual overtakes the secular
- A world when no government formally adopts a religious identity
- A world parliament to effectively and formally initiate celebration when tensions are resolved, for example, in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

#### Global Community

- Different faiths recognize we are all one family
- "Extended family" spiritual communities springing up all over the world
- Co-create the Earth in such a way that polarization is lessened and all religious and spiritual ways are experienced as individual rays of the one sun.
- A global community of people which may celebrate its diversity rather than

try to eliminate the differences, a global community which transcends our cultural and national identities.

- The Earth is but one country and humankind its citizens.
- Kindness, service to God, humanity, community of faith consisting of people of diverse traditions sharing a spirit of community.
- World where no one lacks.
- Mutual respect, understanding differences, abhorrence of violence, a model of partnership beginning in the family, stewardship of the Earth, small is beautiful, community based living, sharing of resources, spirituality and education, affirmative view, original blessing.

#### Transformed Organizations

- New structures for institutions and organizations based on participation and spirituality.

#### Healed Earth

- The Earth is healing and healed.
- Every creature of creation is valued, cared for and celebrated.
- A world united around the preservation and celebration of the Earth as sacred.
- Reconnecting with Mother Earth and not destroying Her in the name of religion.

- A world community in which the various cultures, religions, races, and philosophies have worked out a way to communicate and interact with each other, harmoniously, the way the various biological systems of the human body work together, support each other, and come to the aid of another.
- Educational systems to address the issues of spirituality in the same manner they address anatomy and physiology, that is, as an integral part of every human being.
- People to take full responsibility, to care for Earth as expression of their spirituality.
- Development of environmentally sound, multi-faceted community systems that provide a full range of human activities and education, based on religion or shared interests.
- Life is a big school of learning through application and hand to hand walking.
- An ecological balance. The first step is through population management.
- Make sure that the beauty of the land, art and the children always have a place.
- Every individual and every religious organization studies the UN Earth Summit Document Agenda 21 with the eyes of faith.

- All humans and creatures living in harmony with nature and the Earth.
- A green Earth for our children.
- That our children and grandchildren have a green life.
- A world in which every human being, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or other such factors has equal and open access to education, social political and spiritual opportunity and all basic human needs (food, shelter, etc.) are met.
- Preservation of Nature; ecological balance.

### *Health for All*

- A health-care system that responds to the basic needs of all.

### *Education for All*

- Education that respects the whole individual. Integration of mind with spirit.
- All schools would teach children on a continuous basis about the great spiritual traditions. It would not be recommending or judging, just rendering the traditions familiar and therefore, not alien. Also, the practice of meditation would become a common practice among people.
- Give directions to common man to cope with day-to-day life in the real world.
- Teach concrete values to children in school.
- More inspiration for students to study a variety of religions.
- Educate people from the beginning about the beauty within them.

### *Food for All*

- Interaction to end hunger. Reorganize values of society to quality versus quantity.
- The world should be all together. There should be food for all people.
- Feed the world.
- Every individual has the basic human right to the enjoyment of economically satisfying, intellectually rewarding, socially and spiritually

enriching life at a local, national and global level.

- Reconciling science and religion. References: Robert Riegg, Ian Barber's book and Michael Talbot's **Holographic Universe**.
- Twenty-four hour radio and TV channels to bring us together as one family.
- Technology used to serve people and the world and not make people and the world subservient.

### *Truth Pervades*

- A world where truth pervades, where all humans would have the insight to discover the Truth of ourselves, and the courage and the means to be that Truth in the world.
- Recognition of the importance of the spiritual perspective for individual, community and national development.
- The news media presents a more positive picture and presents truth.
- Common silver thread of truth at the core of all traditions; focus on the core and act upon it.
- Dissolve anxiety of greed.
- Everyone confident enough in their faith that they have to look at and explore others.

### *Spirit in Business*

- Job Market - businesses acknowledge spiritual dimension.
- Diffusion of vertical and secular precepts and knowledge into applied and functional areas of life, especially commerce, health, etc.
- The sacred is to be shared spiritually and materially
- Change the economics.
- A spiritualized work to replace our materialistic one.

### *Children*

- Educate on parenting skills so as to break the cycle of child abuse.
- Women and children are nourished and cherished.

- Parents take on the responsibility of teaching children that "we are all one."
- Worldwide network for child care without discrimination.
- Involve our younger generation with older folks and the vision of this parliament to bring forth all ages in spirituality and action.

### *Homes*

- Help the homeless (but how?). Clean trailer parks - ownership. Communal laundries, kitchens. supervisor to encourage cleanliness and self-respect. Education in the three R's and diet.
- Community houses for the homeless.

### *Process*

#### *Seeing The Big Picture*

- I would like to see people and governments go beyond looking out only for themselves and start looking at the bigger picture.
- Everyone mindful of what we're doing to each other & earth.
- A world in which the sacred interconnectedness and interdependence of all life (and everything to some level is alive) is recognized and respected. A world in which "power over" and "dominion" have become outmoded, quaint ideas!
- More towards realizing earth as one country and its citizens
- Take responsibility for cosmos
- The earth in such a way that all religious and spiritual ways are experienced as individual rays of the sun.

#### *Inspiring The Expression of Spirit*

Freer expression of spirit in worship and art in communities.

Communities, churches where home is felt, A place to rest, know deep source

- World where spirituality transcends religion; spirituality will be realized as a personal yet universal experience that occurs 24 hours-a day, rather

than a scheduled event that occurs within a dictated forum. The experience of spirituality would include a structured forum, but is not dependent upon the forum for expression or existence.

- How to uncover the essential core of goodness, mercy, justice, compassion, etc which is the core of the many living faiths (formal/informal) to have a new beginning.
- Discover the best the most direct path to enlightenment; this would include tools, methods.
- Raise the Kundalini energy up the spine of each individual so we may all experience full enlightenment and enter the next stage of our spiritual and physical enlightenment.
- People no matter what their tradition, will live by spiritual values that increase life rather than by materialistic and secular values that oppress and kill life and spirit.
- For all people to live from the following perspective. . . that we are not physical beings having a spiritual experience, but spiritual beings having a very precious physical experience.

#### *Interfaith Exploration (Processes)*

- Learning to accept differences within their own faiths.
- I hope that the voices of "critical spirituality" within each tradition will be strengthened and amplified.
- Living by core spirituality rather than outer trappings of tenets and structures. Living unity with all other humans plants, animals, matter.
- Everyone confident enough in their own faith that they dare to look at and explore other faiths.
- Mental approach to spirituality not emotional response.
- Each person responsible for causing change internally and through service
- By the year 2000, people in all religions will know and practice as instruments of the source, true power, without ego; be aware of both their salvation and their pathology; come together, integrated

and whole in their own traditions, for social and political action for his common good.

- Hope that it inspires students to study various religions in depth,
- Understanding transformation experience, interfaith education, honoring differences, kindness and service,
- We have a vision that through understanding our life will be transformed through experiencing an interfaith education (silent meditation) so we can honor our similarities and see that we are one.
- To promote inter-religious dialog first among my family and friends (who tend to be dogmatic, think Christianity is the only truth) I hope to introduce some of the truth from other religions. Second to encourage the religious leaders in my home city from all faiths to begin to dialog hopefully our joint efforts can combine and solve some of the problems of which we are all aware.
- International network to expose interfaith
- Bridging the gap between fundamentalists and interfaith relations
- To participate in a group like this where a person may express their feelings and spiritual experiences without the fear of being judged where one may learn from many religious traditions and where they may be explored further into a scientific observation. Another dream is to offer the youth a system to organize themselves to find new solutions.
- People communicate in live and establish is a celebration of differences and a tolerance toward the oneness of life and the elimination of weapons of destruction. We all creatures can live in harmony with nature and the earth and teach basic values and truth to our children. Encourage politics of compassion and humility with the news media encouraged to follow.
- Building grass roots level worldwide interfaith relations.

- More undistorted information and experience of a variety of religious and spiritual traditions.
- Known that we are all spiritual beings. We would retain distinctions between different paths, probably and have profound relationships with each other across former boundaries, enriching and contributing to each other to live fully.
- People should understand each other. And try to understand that God is one and only on, but people see their own differences. We should not separate people but understand.
- To see inside of ourselves and to know who we are, where we are going in our spiritual growth and that we want unity.
- All religions maintain their identity while supporting one another to develop the best they can be. "Negatives" in religion also respected but not given vehicles to hurt one another.
- That we will enter the 21st Century with a deeper understanding and respect for other traditions. And that this understanding will bring us together

#### *Interfaith Centres*

- An end to the fundamentalist mentality which is rampant in every tradition -- basic training in non-secular spirituality.
- That spirituality -- interfaith community -- become the model for all community i.e. pro-active presence versus reactive.
- Multifaith centers: What are we to do?
- Interfaith spirituality centers -- experienced-based, paths of all honored.
- Establishment of centers which can easily be accessible to all -- for the purpose of learning from the best religious traditions which will then allow the individual to develop a personal spirituality which will impact all the areas of their lives in a global community.

#### *Co-Creation Processes*

- Would like to see a spiritual democracy . . . trained in small group dynamics
- Present circumstances demand a formal process for healing the world that all souls can incorporate in a process or system.
- A worldwide event to unite all -- invite the media.
- Take from here a practical format for meeting with groups we've not met or heard.
- Need to develop a common language, encouraged to increase level of religious literacy; separate esprit for a global unity and creating individual religious traditions and cultures.
- Spiritual leaders influence their followers in consideration of global problems, that leaders together can create an agenda to solve or lesson those problems and then incorporate these ideas into their teachings and hopefully empower their followers to feel they are capable of changing what may be inevitable.
- 1. Find morals that are commonly agreeable. Perhaps best told as parables. 2. Recognize that complete understanding is only known to God. The world is too chaotic for us to fathom. 3. Bring this into existing religions, not by creating new religions. 4. Recognize that morals, tales, fables, parables are not to be taken as historical fact, but as a lesson.
- Use of each soul's capacity as a co-creator being to focus his pure source of energy in a collective purpose that will effect change on a collective unconscious level. Ref to Rupert Sveldrakes's theory of morphic fields

### *Deepening Dialogue Processes*

- We could all give great encouragement for both inner journeys and for strengthening outer dialogue for journeys of interfaith.
- Continue this type of dialogue which is not political. Recognize a common spiritual need and stay in communication to share this intent and to bring it into the daily reality

of every one in power locally, nationally and internationally.

- That interfaith groups/dialogues take place on a grassroots level all around the world.
- Belong to a special spiritual group.
- A world where spirituality is practiced by the different religions is a reality. Dialoguing between the religions happens easily. I am not looking for their being one religion but that problems are seen as solvable, therefore, a world without war. There are ethics which encourage right attitudes within the people.
- Structured dialogue between religions or faith traditions at the grassroots level.
- Greater understanding amongst people based on spiritual values. Creativity, identity for each individual. Skills for dialogue taught in schools, churches and homes.

### *Conflict Resolution*

- What are specific tools for resolving conflicts of religious discontent among a population of a said country with domination of yet a different religion so that spirituality transcends.
- To see religious, spiritual and faith communities around the globe tackle teaching that conflict is inevitable but violence is not. We want to teach every person on Earth a basic method for resolving conflict through negotiation and have a 3-year time table to help provide everyone with instruction and opportunity to practice negotiation.
- An end to religious conflict; it is nonexistent.
- The weapons of destruction evolve into symbols for discussion, analysis and consensus, thus, eliminating the more immediate dangers of literal death and suffering coming from our anger and hurt.
- Mechanisms of inter-nation community, personhood, etc. to communicate difference rather than act it out. Cultural mechanisms for communication established to express conflict safely.

- **Condemn genocide;** not to do so is to support evil. Save Bosnia, Kurdistan, Tibet and all native peoples.

### *Non-Violence*

- A world without personal guns.
- That violence prompted by political, religious or whatever other differences will decrease. That violence will not be seen as a way to resolve difference.
- The construction of the Peace army, an unarmed interventionist force to end religious violence.
- Respect for each other's religions. Clear-cut renunciation of violence by one religion against another. Affirm common task of each religion to share the visions of promoting each person's inner peace. Religious mandate to eliminate ethnic and social violence.
- A world which strives for stopping war forever in the name of religion.
- To encourage an organization to which I belong to remember the spiritual aspect. To include practical acts such as the act of forgiveness and tolerance as a basis for action rather than hatred and revenge. The organization of the parents of murdered children.
- A nonviolent peaceful world.
- That Roman Catholics be serious about promoting non-violence.
- There is a lot said about ending fear, having peace etc. An important part of this is universal acceptance of non-violence toward managing conflicts between any peoples or persons.
- That all religious traditions nurture the nonviolent strands of their tradition and refrain from taking human life.
- A world without violence, domination or wars; a world where weapons are laid aside, both in terms of the planet and its people.

### *Negotiations*

- People should understand each other and their backgrounds and try to understand that god is one and only

one but people see their differences because of their different backgrounds and levels of growth. We should not separate people but understand the reasons for their opinions.

- Each of us express our core of spiritual ethics and goodwill by learning and using a **negotiation** process. We can preach, use and teach spiritual democracy and harmony via **negotiation**. We can lead our communities in **valuing** and applying the process everywhere (see enclosure, "All Faiths Global Negotiation Action Plans).
- Bring art, spirit, children together for the future. Training and negotiating for religious leaders.

### **Collaboration**

- The Religious Freedom Project - Vision for World Spirituality - Reverend Eileen Eperon. A commitment, an irrevocable stand for the end of religious violence by the year 2005. The focus of **The Religious Freedom Project** is to create opportunities, support other agencies in creating opportunities for profound relationships and mutual friendships between people of different religious and philosophical traditions.
- Effective collaboration in order to bring about the transformation of **Pacem in Terris** or **Peace** to the Earth.
- Building grassroots level worldwide interfaith relations.

### **Personal Responsibility**

- That all people would live with the goal of personal responsibility to be the best Christian, Jew or Hindu or whatever that they could be with a commitment to all life and living in a harmless, nonviolent way.

### **Consciousness**

#### **God Realization**

- That we realize that spirituality is the search for understanding of the divine will and our attempt to bring our wills into alignment with it and not the attempt to impose our wills on

the divine will through ritual and spiritual manipulating.

- That a way will be made for people to know and understand the one true God and the one true God's principles so as to reconcile their lives with the one true God's principles for the sake of the one true God. Tadar Jihad Wazir.
- A God-realized world. Beyond politics, there is spirituality which still awaits discovery.
- Breakthrough.
- Acknowledgement that there is one Supreme which all faiths aspire to know and interact with. That Supreme accepts and validates all sincere attempts to interact with value, worship and understanding. That all human s respect all faiths as valid, sharing similarities and respecting differences. that human values become a universal acceptance for the improving and sustaining of society. Amen. Diane Martha Soul Doughman.
- Return to the Source
- That we all return home to the father of all. Blessings. Om. Jim, Daman, Kiena, Keith, Deveta, Tammy, Danmion and Raymond and all my Brothers and Sisters of the world.
- That each individual realized a true purpose of religion.

#### **God Within**

- Would like to see more and more people awaken to the divinity within themselves. The power of the God-Force, which will allow the individual to create his own reality, and this creates the world reality.
- For humankind to recognize and honor the Divinity within each person regardless of their religion, to come together in love and understanding that we each have a gift to bring to the Universe which weaves a magnificent tapestry of the One. My part would be to express the highest and best that I can.
- Reconnect with your one True Self, your spiritual nature. Listen to and honor your Inner Creativity and Spirit. Heal and balance relationships with all life. come

together to Co-create Heaven on Earth, a health, happy planet.

- In a world of conflict and sorrow may we realize the truth of human nature and the universe. We are all but players in the cosmic play - we must realize we are one. We are one.
- Cognizance of the **sacred** in all, e.g., inanimate things, includes human-made objects, and sentient beings.
- Divinity within all life.
- All the world's religions realize divine within people and develop this.
- A world that is more spiritualized and feels its oneness in spirituality, whatever this spiritual lifestyle may be.
- The primary importance of each individual's connection with God, and the need of a living teacher to guide, would be recognized by all religions.
- Self-realisation. The Jains.

#### **Radical Detachment**

- That spiritual understanding be spread so widely that we all learn (a) how surprisingly little we really need in terms of money, power, goods, comfort, etc., (b) how easy it can be to let go of such things if there is a spiritual base and a spiritual community, and (c) how important it is to share the mundane basics in order to be free to share what is better.
- To give up resentments and judgements of all types. This is what leads to problems.
- Compassion without emotion.
- To shift from doing to being.

#### **Live Truly**

- Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.
- That we human beings learn how to activate our human potentials and capacities so that we can start to live in a world where equity, reciprocity and diversity is cherished.
- That religion will become the catalyst for releasing that potential, creating

unity and healing the ills and problems of the world which are essentially spiritual in nature.

- Participate in and help humanity find and fulfill its freedom and responsibility to envision and actualize a practicable Earth paradise, or at least move toward it, e.g., universal local abundance, security, education, community, enjoyment. Our technological economic systems should be oriented to provide life satisfaction simply and locally on a universal basis.
- A world where all people realize their own divinity as creators and embrace their ability to respond to its maturing process and its potential to influence others.
- That the human race will recognize its nobility and spiritual heritage and live in such a way as to fulfill his inherent spiritual potential. "Man is the supreme talisman..." Baha'u'llah
- That spirituality is acknowledged and present in all aspects of life.
- Manifestation of divine destiny - enlightenment. For each to evolve according to his or her own intelligence, will and action toward the mastery and understanding displayed by all the Great Spiritual Masters of the World, i.e., Gautama, Jesus, Mohammed, Lao Tse, Gandhi, and others. Man is a soul with a body instead of a body with a soul. Use of Kundalini energy.
- Heaven on Earth inside us now. where we remember our similarities more than our differences, where all children re our own where we make choices about our lives, knowing that we make them with the next seven generations in mind, where we have come to peace inside ourselves with all the differences. As we come to peace in the microcosm inside ourselves, the peace ripples out into the macrocosm, the external world.
- More love. More equality in all ways. More opportunity for all people to realize their potential. More possibilities. More breadth. More inclusion. More compassion. More Joy.

- A world where a revolution in our conception of the sacred has occurred, and the cosmos is recognized as present and alive in each being and thing. This fundamental assumption and experience would be combined with the greatest development of the innate gifts of each individual, group and relationship.
- A dream of a time when people will truly live their faith fulfilling the heart of the tradition rather than the letter of the tradition.
- Live our spirituality in every breath and action and in service.
- Something is being learnt here - literally so. This is the time the soul of the earth is being born and it is coming into existence and whereas its mouthpiece is dying, the old is being reborn to the youth.
- Something is being born. Humanity has to die and then to be reborn to the spirit of the Earth.
- Develop all human beings to their full potential.
- Initiation of the Golden Age.
- Rid ourselves of those negative menaces in theology than exclude others.

#### *Creative Uncertainty*

- Adult identity crisis among critical mass of adults in leadership positions that would break down a false sense of certainty and knowledge and return value to child/innocence.
- My vision is of a world where all people realize their own divinity as creators and embrace their ability to respond to its maturing process and its potential to influence others.

#### *Consciousness Shift*

- Global, Planetary, Cosmic Consciousness NOW!
- Dream, to acknowledge that we have a lot of choices, paths to the same place. Not necessarily a right or wrong way.
- Elimination of prejudices.
- I would hope that we could learn to emphasize our similarities rather than

on differences and focus more on the welfare of the world than on being right. We hope for a spiritual paradigm shift on the planet so that we can honor diversity and experience a universal transformation.

- Shift from scarcity consciousness to universal abundance (end of hunger, poverty etc).
- Raising consciousness of all.
- Effort to understand the individual we are talking to now and not try to understand "persons" or the world.

#### *Radical Trust*

- Being loved (held) freely. Open palmed; not clutched. As individuals - disclose and share ourselves with each other. Make our "Good" so open that God will break through.
- Let us listen, listen, listen. Let us observe, observe, observe. Let us understand a Oneness which speaks through our diversity.
- Be motivated to practice our own spirituality through observation and to appreciate of other traditions.
- That we will more appreciate the other, so that we may resolve conflicts non-violently.
- Listen to one another's language - defining differences and commonness.
- World unity through respect and reverence for all people, race, nations and religions. Unity already exists, we need to remember it.
- To have some basic knowledge of all the major religions of the world. (A must for the one world we live in today).
- Create a greater tolerance for individuality. Create a greater understanding between religions.
- Mutual trust and respect.
- Live in a climate where each path to God is honored, celebrated, protected, encouraged - See groups which may be multi-dimensional.
- Greater understanding and openness to all religions - not just intellectually

but through meditation and quiet understanding.

- A permanent understanding and empathy across groups that can be carried forth by individuals. This requires as many opportunities for personal interaction as possible.
- OPENNESS to new ideas and experiences and how they reflect not threaten each other.
- I believe that we can transform each other and the world by sharing intimately with each other our own understanding of life and spirit in and I/thou way with respect and an open heart.
- Without others our existence is pointless. What would you do if you were the only person? Nothing. What would you be happy about? What would you want to change? Nothing. There would be no purpose in doing anything. If we realize we live for others and others live for us, perhaps we can live together in Unity.
- To listen to the possibility of who the other faith/religious people are.
- Truly listen to others in different traditions and not "preparing a rebuttal" as the other is talking or explaining.
- Be generous and gentle with each other.
- Respect other persons cycle of learning
- We need to be more courageous.
- Learning to accept differences within their own faiths.
- Universal forces on bringing children into the world with harmony and a spiritual compassionate climate.
- Fear - challenged to see.
- Respect faiths within their own faiths.

### **Radical Love**

- Dream that each of us come to love ourselves, and then express that love unconditionally.
- The integrity you bring to your personal relationships is very

important - it reverberates brilliantly to the rest.

- Compassion of each other. One religion of love.
- Love and Peace - Oneness - Music and Joy.
- That people the world over will be able to live with more hope than people are now, for their own personal future, and for that of their people, the world and the earth.
- Find harmony and respect through love for each other and for all things.
- Alleviation of all forms of fear - whereby we can address all other problems.
- Vision for the world - to have plenty of health spirituality (which would show love, wisdom, courage and caution) An awareness of sick religiosity so that it can be prevented or minimized.
- Religion of love and Compassion
- Transformation, simplicity, kindness, service, experience. Love of god. Love of neighbor. Mediation. Education through experience.
- To form a partnership with each other to let our passion for God find expression in our interactions with others.
- Forgiveness a necessity to really listen to each other and making room for each other.
- Have more love than hate for your neighbor.
- Find out what spirituality is in its fullest sense: to every people eg all Americans understand American Indians' concept of spirituality, relationships to each, self creator. Vision: All people become aware of embody love and to embraced theology of love.
- To reaffirm in my daily life that love is an act and commitment not affection. To learn and live with those who do not help themselves (from my point of view) to realize that it is easy to love those who treat you with respect and affection but difficult to love where love seems impossible.

### **One Family**

- To come from our relationship no matter what the circumstances.
- To celebrate our relationships allowing fully personal embarrassment.

### **One Harmony**

- That marriage would be experienced on a one heart, one mind, one soul, one strength level where traditional or cultural limitations are transcended.
- Earth as one Spirit. Re-honour our Mother the Earth.
- A global spiritual community evolve that includes a respect and honoring of the earth so that we may lie in harmony with the natural order of things.
- For all people to become aware of their common spiritual nature.
- There are lots of variety (no stereotypes), beautiful flowers in the garden. I am happy to see them.
- Unity of ALL. Not just humanity but the oneness of ALL as we have the feeling of belonging and oneness with earth and other beings.
- A world where we recognize we're one family.
- Dealing with what we have in common which will bring about a communion - Maybe we need a visit from outer space, we will be more quickly reunited - Our answer to, who are you? and, where do you come from? Will be one answer; I'm from planet Earth...
- That someday all religions would reject all forms of violence and war as a legitimate moral means to achieve any goal.

### **Hopes**

- That people the world over will be able to live with more hope than people are now, for their own personal future, and for that of their people, the world and the earth.
- Our hope is a world without war.

### **One Garden**

- There are lots of variety of beautiful flowers in the garden. I am simply happy to see them.
- Strong confidence that this universe is going to be a nice place to live since a lot of people are seeking spirituality.
- Real dialogue, openness and respect to every human being, love and dialogue with nature. Every tree talks to us. We have to see the world around us as a gift of God.

### *One Line of Thought*

- A world where there is a wholeness of spirituality.

### *One Birth*

- Something is being born here, and I think it is useful to take that image literally: my vision for humanity is to die to itself and be reborn as the spirit of "Earth".
- Oneness of all life - human, animal, tree/nature, God, Everyone is part of the one.

### *Peace*

- International Peace Day.
- A world without war.
- Long for and work for peace in the world and the stewardship of the Earth.
- A world where people are safe to grow.
- Struggle for religious wholeness would be less fierce.

### *Heal the Hurt*

- Words of my sister, "Heal the Hurt. Make it better." from a dream I had while trying to define her essence - In answer to question by her younger son, Scotty.
- One vision is of a world where: a humanity is healed.
- A dream of a day when people will no longer inflict horrible suffering upon their fellow human beings in the name of God or Jesus.
- Two crucial things are equally necessary to fulfill a vision of the future. 1) An understanding and awareness of past pain - imposed or

received - between cultures/nations/ religions and, 2) A willingness to look ahead with a commitment to learn from past pain and make changes in future.

- We must look ahead, yet understand history's lessons and commit to change (without dwelling in the past).

## *Structural*

### *Universality*

#### *Universal Spirit*

- Gratitude for all that is here; grateful discovery of gifts in all religions
- Religion and spirituality flow like a river, body of light
- That daily practices in the body/mind (body -- some form of movement; mind -- meditation, stillness, etc.) become a fundamental practice to the "unity of diversity" for people of all ages. So we can learn to choose responses instead of "reactions" exploding through our bodies during disagreement
- Religion is inclusive
- 21st century celebration of new spirituality
- Religions being willing to give as well as receive at the table of interfaith dialogue
- Truth to be taught to the children of the world. Our similarity, our connection to one another is that we are one, that within each of the Holy Books of the world holds within them the Universal Truth when we understand the language of Hearts
- Agreement between all faiths and traditions that allows the expression of God's love and Light to permeate all Life to transform our Earth into a Paradise of Peace, Equality. Freedom, Balance in whole, oneness
- Use umbrella of oneness to teach the world concepts of inter-relationship learned here

#### *Universal Core*

- Religions would each be strengthened by acknowledging their mystical core teachings to be common to all humanity, and would make

spirituality available to all, in the context of their tradition

- A universal spirituality which focuses on spiritual growth and development of all human beings, their inter-connectedness, and their relationship to the creative source of the cosmos.
- That the universal truth of wholeness and goodness of all of creation in all of our religions and faith traditions will be at the core of everything that we do in the world, and that this truth will replace the exclusive, excommunicating and hurtful dogmas and doctrines that debilitate people and misuse creation

### *Universal Meditation*

- That some day the practice of silent meditation might become the common prayer and bond of spirituality among all religions
- Where everyone walks out of their house, hotel, hut, tepee ... after one hour of silent meditations to meet their brothers and sisters of all faiths
- To have universal religious practice for community-building, ask in silence "What would you have me do?"

### *Universal Religion*

- Global liturgy of forgiveness, reconciliation and celebration of our one human family
- To see all religions come together and form one

## *Diversity*

### *Connection and Diversity*

- Unity through diversity without losing the integrity of each person, tradition or spiritual practice.
- Deep honoring of another's traditions while recognizing the universality back of the traditions
- Freedom, resources and respect for the practice of esoteric religions, particularly in Western countries
- Accepting other religious people
- Recognition that we all belong here, all of us equally, and that each of us bring our own being to offer and at the same time to receive that which

must fulfill our innermost yearning in order that our journey may be fulfilled

- That declared organized religions open to new and different "ways of being" which include and allow others of diversity to exist, flourish and thrive and to co-create together
- An order of humanity where everyone can be joined, keeping their own religions and cultures, but clean up the religions to return to their source, bringing love for self and for neighbor
- A majority of participants of this conference of the religions of the world are trying to find unity among diversity. People wish to have common and understanding that God is only one and omnipotent, omniscient and everywhere. We see differences by different eyes and experiences and should be one

### Safe Disagreement

- Total respect for the ideas and feelings of all of us, but freedom to disagree without threat of isolation or bodily harm
- Differences do not mean enmity. You can be different and still be friends
- Create safe spaces of respect and support for all expressions. Experience the freedom to be ourselves and our interconnectedness as co-creators of the world

Resolution of the dilemma between desire and impulse for individual identity connection/harmony; restore the heart and therefore renewal of spirit of each's own tradition; resulting in an action program to move towards fulfillment of principles of P.

Live and let live

Cease judgement; become accepting of all views, move toward the goal. Develop respect for all life.

Religious leaders teach that it is not to endanger yourselves by teaching others not to be afraid of differences

- Need to recognize that our spiritual journey is individual, combined with

collective needs to be self honest/self/critical to recognize imitation and areas for growth

### Joyful Difference

- All are of one spirit and should trust each other and the world as yourself. The core of religions is the same and we should learn from the difference and be thankful for them. Quit competing.
- Religious and spiritual difference are not only tolerated but respected and celebrated. The presence of grace touching all human hearts, dissolving divisiveness and hatred and bringing a sense of harmony and joy to all.
- Expanding ones awareness to include more than oneself.
- Due respect for differences, uniquenesses. Where differences are not only tolerated, but respected and celebrated.
- Universal freedom and enlightenment, where every being is awakened to the common spirit. Where this truth is celebrated by every being in profound togetherness.
- Celebrating the glory of the difference. Diversity is a beautiful thing.
- See the appreciation of differences, as we are all different, to develop within our traditions an inner guidance in order to serve.
- As humans on a spiritual path, be aware of all our disordered personal aspects which are unconscious to us and which we project on to others and label "evil" and see to react to, to condemn, and/or eradicate. As we own and celebrate all of our "good" as well as "shadow" aspects, we can celebrate diversity. See the value and use of the polarities...see the Tao.
- We will have a deep respect and reverence for all religions and all spiritual traditions. All peoples will take great joy in the diversity through which God is expressed. I dream of a time when men and women will have an equal opportunity to serve God's altars in all faiths.
- A world that respects and cherishes diversity, seeing it as an agent for

balance and peace (rather than sameness).

- Individuals who live daily a profound commitment to go deeply into their faiths, including original faiths, to get to original source and sweep away whatever corruption has developed along the way.
- Listen and watch more.
- Understand so well what we really need that we let go with joy of what we don't need, thus contributing to the redistribution of resources.
- Our desire to understand and our desire to connect with others moves us to invite each other to speak. Hearing the words, the hopes, the pain of one another will hopefully move on to work together in a spirit of determination and candor to love one another in the midst of our differences. Differences are constitutive of reality. The challenge is to deal with them in a constructive way.
- To celebrate differences
- A world view of religion in which each is seen as a part of the whole. Appreciating each aspect which each religion brings forward. Just as in each person, we find we have many parts (child, adult, lover, skeptic, doubter, caretaker, peacemaker, etc.) so each of the religions would be recognized as bringing into a clearer focus each aspect -- in each is one aspect of the whole and the unity is truly expresses as containing the many -- the One is infinitely divisible.
- A world celebrating
- Promote spiritual unity with unified action with mutual respect and cooperation (world unity)
- Underlying the diversity, there is a lot in common. Don't complain about the diversity, enjoy the unity
- Stepping beyond tolerance to a celebration of the spirituality of all people
- That we can celebrate our differences and transcend that which separates us to come to that point of unity - oneness. Focus on what we have in common

- That there will be one religion, the religion of humanity. The God is Love, Love is God
- That some day all religions would recognize and celebrate their essential unity without any claiming to be possessor of the absolute truth
- To grant being to our differences and celebrate them for the contribution they bring and offer
- "Be rooted in your own religion or spirituality or you can never understand others." For your neighbor's religion or spirituality is just as near and dear to him or her as yours is to you

### Permanent Parliament of Spirituality

- That the World parliament of Religions become a permanent body and renamed World Parliament of Spirituality
- Change Parliament of World's Religions to Parliament of World Spirituality
- To see the Parliament of World Religions become a permanent body to be of spiritual guidance to all the world on issues of the day and be renamed World Parliament of Spirituality
- People's Parliament -- a spiritual Security Council whose members consist of everybody; all of us responsible for the spiritual health of the world
- The Parliament issue manifesto from this group on the urgent need for religious leaders to meet often
- Leaders of the world religions convene for a longer period; common ground; unity/diversity; reflection and action on critical issues facing humankind
- Active centers of dialogue between world spiritual traditions and religions
- The World Parliament needs to be an ongoing body -- a UN of religious and spiritual groups which meet to develop collaborative action, education programs, projects of support to personal and global transformation

- We continue to meet at a designated time interval and place in the future to avert earth crisis -- in other words meeting together on a yearly basis schedule to combine focus and energy and understanding

### Local/Regional Connections

- Continue the Parliament through small groups/centers throughout the world -- especially in experiencing the rituals, prayer forms, meditations, etc. of one another's traditions. Peace will come through respecting and appreciating one another
- People connected -- networking; technology is one way; power of coming together; connect on regional levels
- Initiate smaller groups locally -- in community; know future of your spirituality, know it is inside; be willing to share or/and perhaps giving up some of your beliefs
- Assessment or evaluation of the conference at the end of the conference and a global resolution of peace and unity

### Spiritual Equality

- The end of super stars in all fields, from the CEO and spiritual leaders to rock stars and sports, and more of a focus and sharing on an accessible humanity. Perhaps people will value the great gifts of their very own community. This sharing would include a more fair division of everything including finances -- Creative
- Religious leaders of the world meeting at the Parliament declare: no one religion or sacred text has, or can have, "the truth" but rather an essential part of the truth, and therefore that they declare an end for all time to "ecclesiastical sovereignty" of religions. Only God is sovereign and the relationship between God and each individual is a sacred bond over which no religious institution can have final power
- A grassroots way will be made especially for the common people to know and understand the One God
- Separate cultural values and mores from spiritual truths

- An ascendancy of spiritual values over material values

### Spiritual Democracy

- The emergence of a democratically developed world faith as a composite of the world's religions and spiritual groups. Such a world faith needs ongoing dialogue and also universal worship, and a world scripture, symbolism and mission
- Need to differentiate "spiritualism" from religion, and urgent need to define "spiritual democracy"
- Spiritual democracy with chapters, lodges, cells across this country and many other countries; church = community; small groups = redemption
- By-pass religious organizations and systems and explore spiritual democracy
- Deinstitutionalize [religion] and become an individual thing. You don't belong to anything, you are
- A world where we celebrate our essential human beingness via one common world religion of one spirit and that this be a formal undertaking of the Parliament to be a leader in the formation of this world spirituality
- Ideas are powerful and the most powerful movers and the best idea so far is spiritual democracy

## Man-Made Concepts

Blending scientific and religious perspectives, the quantum leap of knowledge ended mystery of Godhead and creation as prophesied by Jesus and St John, freeing us from incorrect man-made concepts, leading to universal transformation of consciousness. This 20th century breakthrough verified Aristotle's postulation of prime moves and proved Einstein's theory of relativity. *Chloe Diroll, Temple of the Christ, Potomac MD, 301 299 7158*

## Interfaith Community

From 1973-1993, Madison Campus Ministry sponsored a community / co-op house for students of international and US background, naturally including many world faiths. We know the daily struggle to live in peace with each other. We know Taize chants. The house still stands, although it is not of interfaith nature now. All alumni, please contact us! Peace be with you. *Karen Gamble, Wayland House, A Community, Madison WI, 608 251 3341*

## If You Want To Stay Connected:

Interfaith Satellite Network (VISN)  
VISN is a cable TV programming service sharing a full-time channel with ACTS. VISN is committed to building bridges of understanding and hope among people of different faiths and differing values. VISN provides responsible religion and quality television. *VISN, 74 Trinity Place, Suite 900, New York. (212) 602-9673.*

## Everyday Angels

We are interested in nurturing that which is right and creative in the world. We seek to find innovative ways to bless, support, assist and empower the everyday people in their local and global worlds who are making a spiritual difference (ed : like sponsoring *Your Voice*). *Jim & Margaret Huckaby, Shreveport LA (318) 221-3808.*

## Tools for Transformation

Cutting through any religious prejudices, what are the best paths and methods for inner transformation, God realization, enlightenment? Any information, contacts, thoughts would be appreciated. For the 21st century, this is most essential. *J G Powers, Livingston Manner NY (914) 439-4566.*

## People's Source Book

Out of the People's Parliament I have committed to collate and organize an Interfaith Sourcebook of our perceptions, hopes, dreams, and focus of interfaith. If we do one thing, I will accept, collate, and distribute articles and written archives produced by us. All I ask is that each person write their experiences and mail them to: *Ed Hubbard, 3257 W Eastwood, Chicago IL 60625.*

## Enough is Enough!

I am moved by what I heard this morning by a speaker on the engaged Buddhism panel: "Until we understand the forces behind the need to consume, we cannot really help our neighbours in the Third World" We as North Americans cannot afford to wait until we understand! We must act! Stopping at enough is what we in North America are mandated to do. I have found a practical tool for knowing what is enough for me. Write for audio-cassette "Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Achieving Financial Independence". *Marilyn Bradley, New Road Map Foundation, Seattle WA.*

## Lack Of Openness

As a Christian, I must express shame and embarrassment at the apparent lack of openness to bearing the spirit in other faiths on the part of some members of our tradition. Items appearing in *Your Voice* have been, if not proselytizing, at least arrogantly propagandistic. I pray that we may all grow toward greater ecumenical maturity. *George Ralph, Holland MI (616) 335-9247.*

## More on Metaphor!

Many thanks for the musical metaphor in an earlier issue. It would be good to explore the different religious traditions through metaphors such as each faith a note, each a musical instrument, or each a melody. Such an exploration gets interesting when we start to look at the interweaving of harmony and discord to give form to more profound musical understanding. We can use discord, as in music, to move beyond our present limited understanding. *Tony Judge, ULA, Brussels, Belgium.*

## Talking Leaves

Resource for deep ecology interconnections among all life forms. We tape indigenous women in Ecuador, support other projects, and publish a global journal of spiritual ecology/activism to give voice to those who have not been heard -- using interviews, articles, art & poetry, book/music reviews. We invite submissions. *Carolyn Moran, Talking Leaves, Eugene OR (503) 342-2974.*

## Multiple Parliaments?

One of the most amazing aspects of the Parliament is that virtually no two people will be attending the *same* Parliament. With the wide range of options available in every time slot, the individual has to chart their own course, create their own Parliament. Don't be looking, therefore, for any great consensus after this is over. We each have taken a different path! *Brendan Tripp, Eschaton Productions.*

## Inadequate Representation Of Traditions

We have been impressed with the variety of faith traditions represented here at the Parliament and we compliment the organizers on their efforts. However, we feel that a number of traditions and countries have not been adequately represented considering the international scope of this conference. For example, although Buddhists in general have been visibly present at this conference,

Buddhists from Japan and China have been noticeably few in number. In the case of Japan, the leadership of numerous Buddhist schools had no knowledge about the Parliament. This unfortunate fact was perhaps due to the lack of communication and information about cultural etiquette on the part of the organizing committee. We understand that the organizing body had been under strain both financially and logistically, but the Parliament itself and the Japanese Buddhists themselves may have benefitted from a greater Japanese Buddhist presence at the conference. This under-representation has led to Buddhists from other countries having to represent or mischaracterize Japanese Buddhism. This we feel is the most unfortunate aspect. But their presence might also have contributed in both organizational and financial ways. *Duncan Ryuken Williams and Barbara Myojun Ambros.*

### **Millennial Talk**

This is a great event! However millennial talk does not sit well with many non-Christian traditions. Also thanks for tools to dialogue. *Rocco Puopolo, Xaverian Missionaries, Franklin WI. (414) 421-0831.*

### **Mere Humanity**

After meeting and hearing all these wonderful people, each of whom carries part of the truth, I think I will make my religion the One Humanity - for we are united in the simple fact of our mere humanity -- and then only after that a Buddhist, a Christian, a Healer or a Priest. *A Sinclair, Cheltenham Glo, England*

### **Tibetan Resettlement**

Tashi Delek! I am Tibetan and came to Chicago, thanks to the Tibetan Resettlement Program. I am extremely happy to be at the Parliament, most especially to get the blessings from His Holiness the Dalai Lama. I intend to be a good representative of my people. Long Live His Holiness The Dalai Lama! FREE TIBET! *Ngoedup Wangmo, Tibetan.*

### **Boston Participants**

Let's keep the conversations of the parliament alive and well when we return home! Meet at Grant Park for lunch on Saturday -- Corner of Columbus and Jackson.

### **Women's Gifts to the Parliament**

After returning from a sacred trip around the world through the Festival of Sacred Performing Arts, I was disheartened on Thursday evening, while viewing *Chicago Thought* on TV, to see that all the representatives of the Parliament who spoke were men. Is this the image of the Parliament we wish to share with the public? Is this the model of interfaith dialogue and collaboration we wish to present? I have been encouraged by the recognition and appreciation of women's gifts in the planning and implementation of this Parliament. The leadership role women have played has been extraordinary. And I have been heartened by the voices I have heard in the Parliament calling us to work for the equality and rights of women on all levels of society. I am saddened that the visual presented to the public last night did not reflect that reality.

*Lois Martens, St Louis MO.*

### **New World Academy**

Designed to nurture the planet's transformation, it exists to give form to the new spiritual impulses now sweeping the world, helping to ensure that love, peace, justice, abundance and enlightened global cooperation finally leads to total planetary healing. *Andrew Shaw, New World Academy, Lincoln, England.*

### **Buddhist Concern**

We the undersigned Buddhists and friends are deeply concerned with the following and urge the Parliament to take proper measures in order to rectify the situation...we could not but help feel that the 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions is being held for the worshippers of Almighty and Creator God and efforts are being made towards "achieving oneness under God". Further, with great astonishment we watched leaders of different religious traditions define all religions as religions of God and unwittingly rank Buddha with God.... Our concern is threefold:  
1. We feel that mutual understanding and appreciation of different approaches to spirituality and salvation should be a prerequisite for an interreligious gathering like a Parliament of the World's Religions.

2. We feel that we religious leaders of the world gathered here at this historic Parliament of the World's Religions must establish strong guidelines for religious tolerance and cooperation and serve as inspirations for the different religious communities in the world.

3. Language and communication skills are important elements in bringing about agreement and cooperation. We must train ourselves to be sensitive to each other and learn to use language that is inclusive and all embracing. We suggest we use 'Great Being' or 'power of the transcendent' or 'Higher Spiritual Authority' instead of God in reference to the ultimate spiritual reality. We are open to other suggestions and discussions on this matter.

*Extracts from a statement to the Assembly of Spiritual and Religious Leaders by Venerable Samu Sunim, Buddhist Society of Compassionate Wisdom, Chicago IL (312) 528-8685.*

### **Oh For Some Questions!**

So many answers -- with every possible assurance! So few questions through which to grow! If only the wise would share their doubts, we might all breathe more freely! Questions are doorways to mysterious new realities. Answers are walls in an alienating maze.

### **Communication With Non-Religious Friends**

What are practical ways to communicate to non-religious friends and to my community that the very survival of the Earth and of each of us depends upon developing a spirituality within each of our traditions that speaks from the heart and values all living things?

*Clare Christie, Halifax, Nova Scotia (902) 425-3987*

### **Esperanto**

The "language problem", which is an obstacle to "understanding each other" can be solved by the international language, ESPERANTO. It is impartial, and "EASY, LOGICAL AND USEFUL" Headquarters is in Rotterdam.

*Gertrude Novak, Esperanto League of N America, PO Box 1129, El Cerrito, CA 94530*

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### Reaching Out

The reach of each co-operating in greater then the reach of one.

*Phillip Sellers, North Cedar Garden Co-op, Cedar Falls IO, 319 266 8072*

### Wastefulness

Yesterday, after Mary Pat Fisher's beautiful slide show about a farm community in India which is a model for interfaith co-operation and environmental management, a comment was made that caused me to realize more clearly than ever the extent of our wastefulness in N America. A brother who is very involved in the environmental movement in India, expressed his strong concern that the annual three day long ceremonial fire, although a quintessential part of the people's devotional activities requires so much wood fuel (so extremely scarce in India), that it should probably be discontinued. I thought of my home, Vancouver Canada, where some of the planet's last remaining temperate rain forests and rapidly being squandered by institutions like the joint mail advertising industry; where the amount of wood wasted, each year because our photo-copy machines print paper on only one side, would probably fuel the ritual fire for a thousand years! Our wastefulness in the West is truly astonishing and shameful.

*Ashley Kroecher, Vancouver BC Canada*

### Unite!

Dear Brothers and Sisters around this beautiful globe! To all who work for and wish fervently to see a united, just, spiritual and truly progressive human society based on universalism, love justice and basic necessities for all and cardinal human ethical values - UNITE! UNITE! UNITE!!! and ACT!!!

*Dada Advaya'nanda, Proutist Universal Inc., Richardson, TX, 202 829 2278*

### Unity in Diversity

Children are not born with bigotry and hatred. The 21st century criteria for support of religious practices will be promotion of harmony within the human family and with the environment. The majority of the human inhabitants of the planet have already removed their support and

practice of traditional religion. Unity in diversity is a realizable goal for global spirituality formation.

*Ray Richmond, Wayside Chapel NSW, Australia, 61 2 358 6577*

### A Job?

Looking for employment prior experience in critical care 10 years - Home health, 10 year formal parish nurse - available for full time position that will utilize my gift of caring for clients, body, mind and spirit.

*Peg Olson, America Holistic Nurses Association, Chicago IL, (312) 274-7534*

### Contact with Media

I would like to point out, that I did not make any agreement to restrict my contact with the media, when the Parliament took my money for registration. I resent being told I cannot speak to the press. I have an explicit authorization to do so.

*Messrs. Hancock, Jefferson, Madison, Washington & several other gentlemen*

### Human Rights

The human right which transcends all human rights is that no government be associated symbolically, constitutionally or otherwise with any belief system, religious or atheist. If the Dalai Lama and the Pope do not voluntarily give practical world leadership by renouncing their political positions as heads of State, Tibet (in exile) and the Vatican, respectively, then we can hardly expect religions and atheist fundamentalists to desist from aspiring to or maintaining political power. At SDS, a world interfaith conference, Bangalore, India Aug 19-22 1993. This supports Dr Robert Müller in his desire for a permanent Parliament.

*Stan Smith*

### Intrusive Security

God bless Rev Forbes for his gentle graciousness despite the intrusion of the neft speakers guards all over the room during his time. Why was there intrusion and intimidation in the Red Laquer room Thursday night? Doesn't that go against the goals of the Parliament? The true prophet has no ego agenda.

*Anon*

### Sustained Blessing

My heart of LOVE joins yours.....in blessing of our time together...in celebrating this day of new beginnings, and acknowledging my personal commitment to let this rich experience (this precious seed) be brought home with me, where it may be nurtured and grown in blessing of my family, my community and my world. Namasti *Margaret & George Huckabay, Everyday Angels, Shreveport, Louisiana, 318 869 1947*

### Bakara

Bakara is a blessing. Congratulations to Mark Magidson and Ron Fricke for a powerful cinema experience. The images haven't left me yet.  
*Susan Zondor*

### Peace

Peace begins with yourself, expands to your family and friends, and into your neighbourhood, community, religion, country, the world, and the universe.  
*Robert Bryant, Karma Thejcyam Choling, Chicago IL, 312 743 7135*

### Books For One World

Oneworld Publications publishes books on global issues, peace, interfaith, multiculturalism, social concerns, spirituality and personal development. Catalogues available on stand 502.

*Juliet Mabey, Oxford, England, fax: 0865 310598*

### Oil Painting Contribution

I would like to make a contribution to the archives of the Parliament of an oil painting I did of PEACE, PILGRIM II. We attended the 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions. Would Mr Daniel Gomez-Ibanez please call me?

*Judy Jones, Chicago IL, (510) 204 9678*

### Right to Practice Rituals?

I respect and encourage the Lyceum of Venus Healing to present the worship of Great Isis. I respectfully question the Lyceums presentation of Shinto, Taoist, Confucian, or other ritual, being "Pagan" does not give anyone authority to practice cribbed rituals, when there are living practitioners of authentic lineage. Again, with all respect.

*Rashid Patch, Mevlevi Order of America*

### Response On Shinto Dance

To you who questioned the appropriateness of the presentation of the Shinto Dance in Isis of 10,000 Names : the Fellowship of Isis which performed 10,000 Names is a worldwide organization with thousands of members from many religious faiths, including Christians. The Shinto Dance performed in honour of the Goddess Amu Teratsu was done in reverence by a Shinto Priestess. What could be more appropriate? The attendees of the Parliament have a rare opportunity. We may ask questions directly of those who can most accurately and completely give answers, those who prompted them! Most have come to the Parliament in good faith believing that this was a safe place to share our most precious beliefs. Let us realize that our questions need to be as considered as our answers. Let us be forthright and ask questions in a manner that allows free exchange and does to encourage more divisions, P.S. Usrey, *Lyceum of Venus of Healing, Member of the Fellowship of Isis*

### Who Are We?

We are the creation of Mother Earth and Father Sky, the expression of Heaven on Earth. Earth (Life) and Heaven (Light) came together and co-created Beings (Love). We are the loving expression of God and matter. When we remember to be who we are, we shall all experience Heaven on earth. Amen.

### Peace Studies Sourcebook

For pre collegiate and collegiate educators interested in comprehensive peace studies ('Positive Peace') I would recommend:-

Betty Reardon's *Comprehensive Peace Education: Educating for global responsibility*, NY, Teachers College Press, Columbia University, 1988; Johnson D W *et al.*, *Circles of Learning : Co-operation in the classroom*; Alexandria, V A, Assoc. Supervision & Curriculum Development, 1984; and Harman W, *Global Mind Change*, Indianapolis IN, Knowledge Systems, 1988.

Janet Startt, *Karama-Associated Humane Arts, Berkeley CA, 510 540 0904*

### Thanks for the Dream

My thanks to those noble souls whose large hearts and love of truth first dreamed this wonderful dream and then realized it. My thanks to the shower of liberal sentiments that has overflowed this platform. My thanks to this enlighten audience for the uniform kindness to me and for their appreciation of every thought that tends to smooth the friction of religions. A few jarring notes were heard from time to time in this harmony. My special thanks to them, for they have, by their striking contrast, made the general harmony the sweeter.

Ken Walker, Vedanta Free Press, Van Nuys CA, 714 543 7019

### Thank You All

Our Parliament is a gift to our planet from Spirit. the vision and good works of many beings and all of us who are participating. Let us receive and enjoy and appreciate all we are, all we give, and all we are co-creating for all time. Thank you and bless you for the beautiful contribution you all have made in putting together our thoughts and feelings in the Voice. Task well done!

Beefy LueLieber, *Bloomington IN, 812 876 5646*

### Suggestion

Before we start service as a volunteer it would perfect us to pray to our God. *Anon*

### Outreach

After 5 days of attendance, we are particularly interested in outreach solutions. How can we continue their focused entry to impact the world? How can we cross all boundaries, all belief systems in a common solution? We propose a world wide prayer network: Praying together for specific projects for specific lengths of time. Isn't this LOVE IN ACTION? If you are interested in participating or have a specific project for consideration, please write.

San Lynn Merrick, *Hearts United, Independence MO, 816 796 3242*

### Epilogue

Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chace to draw back, always ineffectiveness.

Concerning acts of initiative (and creation) there is one elementary truth the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans :

That the moment one definitely commits oneself then Providence moves too.

All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred.

A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance which no one could have dreamt would come their way.

Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.

Begin it now.

*Goethe, reprinted in "A SourceBook for the Community of Religions", p.240*

### Last Call For More Sponsors of Your Voice

#### ABOUT YOUR VOICE

This is not necessarily the last issue, but for those who will have left before the last issue appears, we would like to thank you for your many interesting contributions. We would also like to thank our sponsors who underwrote the photocopy expenses. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped with the typing (Shirley Duncalf, Giuliana Patti, and others).

If you are interested in the technicalities and possibilities of this process, we have written a manual of guidelines *Participant Interaction Messaging* (UIA, 40 rue Washington, B-1050, Brussels, Belgium) *Nadia McLaren, Union of International Associations, Brussels*

To ensure receipt of messages, use orange box on TogetherNet counter, 6th Floor

## Proposals from the Parliament of the People

*This issue of Your Voice is dedicated to the proposals that were made at the third session of the Parliament of the People. Following the earlier sessions on Vision and Challenges participants were invited to offer Proposals for projects or activities that would incorporate the visions, and/or address the challenges that had been identified. Among the proposals that were presented were three proposals that had been prepared in advance for the Parliament of the World's Religions and one resolution that was drafted in the early days of the Parliament. A preliminary effort has been made at grouping the proposals according to the general area addressed; however, the interests of publishing the proposals before the Parliament ends -- along with the other elements of the Parliament of the People and the continuing publication of Your Voice -- has not left enough time to complete the process of grouping the proposals.*

### Commitments

We will commit ourselves to continue to bring our visions into reality in ourselves, in our communities, and in the world interfaith community.

### Maintenance of spiritual/faith practice

#### Interfaith Prayer!

Come out of the spiritual closet - Speak out. Walk your talk. It's about coming out.

Maintain a personal spiritual practice.

Before each of us leave the Parliament, we ask someone of a religion different from our own to teach us a brief prayer/ritual for world peace and unity, and that we commit ourselves to offering this prayer once each day thereafter. Brother Joseph Kilegevice, OP - Dominican Friars, Oak Park, IL

Immediate action to do rather than hear.

Ribbons; Love-from the heart; New symbol; walk your talk out of the spiritual closet.

Do it here! Begin now!

Action that meets needs and changes hearts.

Be aware of all Spiritual Development which underlies religions.

Allow our faith to be informed (new cosmology-unity).

Set aside a day:

- Connect globally/conscious
- Negotiate skills
- Visit sick/serve people in need
- Personal responsibility

Harmony and not power control; transformation; love all/serve all; new stories.

Wisdom of the oral tradition. Communication that shares our diverse realities.

Commitment/clear objectives. Inner and outer challenges. Unity not uniformity.

### Parliament - Interfaith Council

To repeat the Parliament in the near future, say 2-5 years.

That the Parliament set a date to reconvene - 5-7 years from now.

Another Parliament in 2 to 5 years from now.

An interfaith council. Exchange of faith community news letter.

Form a task force/network to determine how we will penetrate and share technology with society that will promote peace. Siri Ram K Khalsa - Sikh Dharma - 505 753-634?

Integrate existing organizations at UN and local level and co-ordinate with existing groups such as Amnesty International, Bread for the World etc.

Interfaith task force to work with TogetherNet to support communication and networking.

Develop organizational process utilizing other models.

### Conflict resolution

Create situations where people who are locked in violent disagreement can come together in a shared survival type experience that will require them to cooperate and form a basis for communication.

Invite those disagreeing groups who have left in protest to come together to experience the rituals of the group they have a problem with so they can find their commonality.

Teach ourselves basic negotiation skills. Beginning where we worship and in families.

Non-violence and conflict resolution taught in public and private schools.

### Peace / disarmament

To oppose oppression such as genocide - sign proposal - 9:00, 6th Floor AA. many types of killing are letting people die locally and far away.

That the world's religions all work for the banning of international sale of weapons and armaments.

The religious freedom project is spear heading a grassroots movement to end religious violence by 2005. Let's put

some reality into the Declaration to end religious war.

**Peace army.** A world of peace from military conflict. Mission: create a force of people willing to become a living barrier between antagonists, and through non-violent, assertive means to end conflict. Tools: Media, prayer, chants, our bodies, plus whatever transportation and food, etc.

Eliminate nuclear weapons.

### ***Inter-faith meditation calendar***

Have interfaith calendars.

Global practice of spiritual meditation observed rhythmically on first day of each month. First day of each month dedicated by the Global Spiritual Community to spiritual meditation, prayer, meditation fastening, e.g.

January 1	World Harmony
February 1	World Peace
March 1	World Brotherhood
April 1	One Truth
May 1	Reverence for Life
June 1	Love of Earth
July 1	Gratitude for Creatures
August 1	Gratitude for the Child
September 1	etc.

The World Parliament could point their own interfaith calendar for mass distribution (donation offered by membership to cover printing/postage) - Each calendar would dedicate the 1st day of the month to a specific cause (peace, healing of famine etc. women's rights) that would incorporate a practice (prayer, fasting or meditation) that everyone could observe. this practice could even incorporate a spiritual practice that different religions observe. In other words, each month could have a different religious prayer, i.e.

January 1	World Peace
February 1	World harmony
March 1	World Brotherhood
April 1	Reverence for all Life
May 1	Truth is one
June 1	Honoring the child
July 1	Healing hunger
August 1	Healing earth
September 1	etc.

Each person in community observe a single day be connected with global community through prayer and meditation-first day of each month with common theme.

### ***Local interfaith activities***

Local, open-air interfaith prayer service once a month or on a regular basis.  
Pamela Meidell - Nevada Desert Experience

WPOR help grassroots people set up forums for learning the skills of true dialogue and help us set up local interfaith dialogue groups.

**Interfaith (or "Multi-faith") Centers in local neighborhood settings to serve as home for 2-4 different religious communities rather than having separate houses for worship. Witness - the Town of Columbia, MD**

Go beyond dialogue and work together. Start an **Interfaith Garden**, for example, where adults and children of several faiths would physically work alongside each other toward a goal of growing and harvesting food to feed the hungry (first purchasing a highly visible plot of land for the garden). Besides serving others, it might help break down barriers and facilitate understanding/acceptance.

Take the unity of this conference back to our communities and form similar meetings there.

Pick small things in local area - offer something to people - Be of service.

Faith communities could do things together-religious and social activities.

Taking the W.P.R. message of human community-peace; harmony to local levels and village communities.

Courage to get to the heart of differences between people; recognize that religion and personal spiritual quest are not synonymous; recognize precarious state of the world and concentrate on real local watch which truly helps -- while keeping a global vision.

Participate in other faith and cultural communities.

Speaking engagements in local community and writing to news paper.

### ***Education***

Provide a Forum for an educational opportunity to show the common practices of the many groups.

Propose the encouragement of teaching of some sort of meditation technique by all religions. R Moreiras, San Francisco, CA

Coalitions for teaching about world religions in schools, to show how similar religions are.

Universities contact leaders in each religion to get all aspects of each religion.

Educational institutions teaching good values and emphasis.

Develop a religious, educational model which incorporates all religious experiences and use this as a teaching bases--use teachers who embrace a wide, all encompassing appreciation of all religions.

Educational focus on continuing to know your self and your own unconscious process which interfere with others.

Create educational structures that include free flowing short and long term experiences, beginning with children, and including inter-generational experiences-(free flowing short term for those who don't like to join long term groups).

### ***Art and spirituality***

Be aware of role of artist. Establish in local community a Parliament of the People. Contact ourselves in our spirituality. Establish a non-government organization in the UN focusing on religion.

Be aware of the role of the artist to bring forth the message and stir the heart.

### ***Gender equality***

An appeal to our consciences and the consciences of all the leaders of the world's religions to practice gender equality both in practice of doctrine and of ritual. Women must be an integral part of their religions if we are to make any social growth.

### ***Common language***

Create a common language - some choices such as Esperanto, English suggested.

## **Unclassified**

Create new traditions.

Have a mental check list of goals for world. Look at impact of events in light of goals.

Humility to invite suggestions from other traditions

If we all give up our labels then we will be One.

It is the personal connection we have with one another as real people that will heal the differences.

Look at basic needs of people -- touch, food, medicine that we need to service and bring to people we meet.

People decide where tax dollars are spent.

Please, we will be so happy if it is possible for us to see the sikhs and hindus giving an embrace. Thanks.

Programs for developing tolerance and respect to honor people.

Promote "Dialogue-Preaching" in Roman Catholic, Protestant Churches. Develop basic trust in homes. Decentralization of power in the structure of the parliaments. Wholistic Peace Clinics to deal with prejudices/violence.

Replace power, control and greed with harmony and compassion.

Speaking the truth from heart-wisdom.

Spiritual insight for physical problems.

Statement representing One group at Parliament of the People

Study what is working (among our groups).

That each of us reach out in personal friendship to at least one person of another faith tradition. e.g. Christian to Muslim, Buddhist to Jew, Hindu to Native American.

The leaders say, "We will respect diversity, but maintain 'our' traditions." How about respecting the birth of the recognition of the **already** existing Interfaith Tradition within all world faith communities?! Jesse Arana - Ann Arbor MI

Think globally, Act locally.

Urban communities work with rural communities in setting up multi-cultural networks sharing ideas which in turn obtain results on a global scale as well as in their own communities.

Exercise of consumer power to endorse consumer concerns.

### **People's power**

**Disintegration** of religious, economic, **social**, political power towards people's power.

### **Population control / contraception**

Provide contraceptive information to control population.

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### **Draft resolutions proposed**

#### **Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**

Whereas nuclear weapons pose the ultimate threat to life on Earth,

Whereas the use of nuclear weapons is inhumane, immoral and a violation of international law,

Whereas the illegality of nuclear weapons is disputed by nuclear and near-nuclear countries,

Whereas the International Court of Justice (ICJ), as the World's supreme judicial organ, is empowered to rule on matters of international law,

Whereas a ruling from the ICJ that nuclear weapons are illegal would greatly increase the prospects of eliminating such weapons,

Whereas the threat of nuclear weapons will remain as long as they continue to exist,

Whereas Chemical and Biological weapons have been prohibited, leaving nuclear weapons as the only weapons of mass destruction remaining,

The Parliament of World Religions supports the initiative seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legality of the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons,

The Parliament of World Religions calls for the negotiation of a convention to eliminate nuclear weapons and urges

the conclusion of such a convention by the year 2000.

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### **International Year of Nonviolence: Reflection on the Nuclear Age**

Whereas, The 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions is meeting in Chicago from August 28 to September 5;

Whereas, Chicago is also the site of history's first sustained nuclear reaction in 1942 at the University of Chicago's Stagg Field, which led to the Manhattan Project and humanity's entry into the Nuclear Age;

Whereas, the Cold War has utilized the resources of the human and natural communities to inflate economies with massive buildups of nuclear arsenals; and in the post Cold War world, the people of the earth are seeking ways to live in harmony as a global community in a clean environment and with a moderate standard of living for everyone;

Whereas, all of the world's spiritual traditions encourage and teach the discipline of reflection as a way to understand the past and move into the future with hope;

Whereas, our nuclear history and its costs have been hidden from us and have robbed us of the ability to face our present and our future realistically and with hope;

Whereas, our faith in nuclear weapons to provide for our security betrays our faith in the millennia-old spiritual traditions of humankind;

Whereas, the full consequences of our entry into the Nuclear Age are still unknown;

Whereas, humanity faces a critical historical moment where the world's religious and spiritual leaders can point the way to harmony; therefore,

**Be It Resolved That** The 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions declares 1995 a Year of Non-violence and Reflection on the Nuclear Age and calls on people everywhere to;

1) reflect, in ways appropriate to their traditions, on the history and impact of nuclear weapons on the world,

2) pledge to move into the Third Millennium basing their personal, community and international relationships on non-violence, and to oppose, resist and overcome violence and oppression through non-violent action; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that The 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions supports the 1995 Atomic Mirror Pilgrimage, an inter-faith pilgrimage of remembrance, healing and renewal, retracing the route of humanity's first atomic bomb on the 50th anniversary of the Nuclear Age; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that The 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions forward this resolution to the United Nations, and call upon that body to declare 1995 as United Nations International Year of Non-violence.

*Nevada Desert Experience - Pax Christi, USA*

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### **All Faiths Global Negotiation Action Plans**

*First disseminated in 1993 via the Parliament of the World's Religions - Chicago and Congress of the International Association for Religious Freedom - Bangalore, India*

Religion has a central role in shaping the attitudes and behaviors of individuals and groups - and we want to use it constructively to promote justice, tolerance and non-violence, counteracting patterns of earlier "religious wars". We recognize the necessity for the separation of church and government - and intend to honor that. We shall use our influence among our own kind to replace compulsions to dominate forcefully with skills to negotiate peacefully.

1 We plan to integrate explanation, advocacy and demonstration of negotiation into this faith's worship services at our originating site and at other sites where the faith is preached and practices, dealing with the topic 4-6 times per year at each site during 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997.

Our faith's originating sites will develop during 1994 master and sample readings, sermons, and prayers on negotiation for our own use and for

sharing with others, arranging administrative mechanisms and budget to accomplish distribution to leadership at all worship sites.

2 We plan to offer religious education classes for adults and other lessons for children on negotiation within each congregation, striving to involve the majority of followers of this faith during the 1994-1996 program period.

We will find and adapt or design lesson plans and teaching aids for teaching negotiation that are appropriate to this faith, readying these during 1994 and arranging administrative mechanisms and budget to accomplish distribution to all sites of this faith.

3 We plan to meet with representatives of other faiths practiced in our area to explain the Global Negotiation Action Program and urge that all other faiths commit themselves to bringing it to the followers of their own faith.

We will initiate these contacts during 1994 and offer to share copies of our worship and class materials and to assist other faiths.

4 We plan to counsel with the leaders of our faith in every region and community about how to inspire the involvement of government leaders, think tanks and research organizations, colleges and universities, foundations, public libraries, editors, producers, employers, special interest and social groups to implement the Negotiation Action Program in ways available to each.

Each of us credentialed religious and lay leaders will make five to ten such contacts to assure the spread of initiative taking for the Negotiation Action program into other spheres as well.

5 We plan to work through the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of the United Nations with which this faith is affiliated to make the Global Negotiation Program a collaborative, multifaceted NGO and UN program.

We urge each NGO to develop strategies to a) teach negotiation skills to its own membership and service population and b) promote and implement broadly within the communities it touches the Global negotiation action Program.

6 We want to make the Global Negotiation Program central to the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and official business of the UN through 1997 communicated via UNDP and implemented via various UN offices and conferences.

To encourage UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to provide visionary leadership for the Global Negotiation Program around the world and within the UN, we will write to him and to Mrs Gillian Sorenson, c/o 50th Anniversary Secretariat, Room S-3194D UN, New York, NY 10017, fax 212/963-1203, Phone 963-6828.

To put this proposal on the agenda of the UN General Assembly as soon as possible, we and our NGO affiliates will write to and meet with UN member nation delegates to urge co-sponsorship of the Global Negotiation Program.

### **Petition To Abolish Genocide**

*Prepared by Parliament of the World's Religions Ad-Hoc Committee to Condemn Genocide*

We, the undersigned, as representatives of the world's religions, at the Parliament of the World's Religions, hereby proclaim:

Genocide is an evil and horrific crime condemned by every faith, every religion, every spiritual tradition. Genocide (as outlined and ratified by the United States government in Article II of the Genocide Convention) is an abomination in the light of every faith and path on earth; and cannot be ignored, and thereby condoned by this Parliament. As representatives of all the world's religions, assembled in this Parliament, we categorically condemn the sin of genocide in every form, no matter where, when, how, by whom, or against whom it is committed; we definitively repudiate every claim that genocide is justified, supported or approved by any religion.

We further condemn the use of religion to sanction this evil. We declare that genocide must cease NOW, and that practitioners of genocide may no longer hide behind our authority, our light, our moral responsibility.

## Commitments from the Parliament of the People

*This issue of Your Voice is dedicated to the commitments that were made at the final session of the Parliament of the People. Following the earlier sessions on Vision, Challenges and Proposals, participants were asked to express the personal commitments that each was making to keep the spirit of the Parliament of the World's Religions alive. In particular, participants were asked to focus on immediate, concrete steps rather than lofty goals, to help us be clear as to what we would each need to do so that the phrase "We came, we talked, we forgot" would not apply to this Parliament.*

I commit to be involved in the first Interfaith Council for Chicago that was formed August 31, 1993 which includes visiting other places I worship and making more friends.

I will help to establish a local interfaith fellowship (open to all) in my home community.

I want to be continuously involved in discussion and investigation of two topics: the dominance versus the partnership model in society, and over population. I hope to learn and teach in these two areas, as they affect religion and are affected by it.  
*Marjorie Marquette Florshein*

Buy cassette tapes of some of the talks to give to friends. Sharing the wisdom of this Parliament.

Maintain links with the gifted people I've met and put them in touch with the gifted people I know.

Adopt a spiritual tradition.

Hook up the college to Together Net.

I am committing myself to continuing the process of inter-religious understanding and cooperation. I will write up what has happened this year, particularly at Kunya Kumin and Bangalore, India. I see it as a promotion of what can happen to change the world to become more understanding and more cooperative.

As part of this, I will promote the International Interfaith Center to be created at Oxford, UK. *David Storey*

I am committed to eliminating over-consumption in North America that is destroying our Earth. I am committed to putting the Earth first in my everyday actions, in the people I meet, in my work. I am committed to doing what I can to empower others in their lives. *Marilynn Bradley*

I'm a minister and want to expand our interfaith discussions to include more people (faiths) and events. [I will] write for the newspaper and my religious movement. [I will] teach courage in church and summer assemblies, especially for children. [I will do] sermons specifically on the Parliament and illustrate from world religions' scriptures.

I, *Brooke Anderson*, commit myself to be a founding member of the **Do Something Club** of California by teaching the best of the Parliament to business, spiritual and general communities.

I will represent the excitement, the adventure and the possibility of this parliament at my interfaith association back in Sudbury, MA. So - **Catch The Fire!** *The Rev. Eileen Epperson*

Write or contact 3 people or more per week. Contact my local newspapers.

Contact my friends in local spiritual groups and churches to creating a Parliament of People [at the local level].

As a graduate student of Religious studies, I commit myself in being open to other people's sacredness, faith, struggles, hopes; but not as a passive person, but as an activist that finally understands that Religion without Love is nothing but good words, and love that can't transform human lives to living in peace and justice is not love nor religion.

I commit to be involved in the interfaith Council for Chicago that was formed August 3, 1993 which includes visiting other places of worship and making more friends.

Join TogetherNet. Write book on racism.

After returning from the Parliament, I shall think of how to evolve a new direction to give service to:

- \* family
- \* community
- \* and the needy at large.

My personal commitment - To live more faithfully as a global, pluralistic person who expresses those loyalties sometimes through my Christian community, but also (and much more than before) through multicultural/multifaith networks.

To return to my community acknowledging even more fully my spirituality and my "religion". To work to co-create a continuing interfaith dialogue in Boulder & Denver, CO. To see, in all transactions. To acknowledge the fundamental human values shared by all religions - our one God, our one Family, our one Home. To continue to seek co-creative partnerships to do the work of liberating & unifying all humans and honoring Mother Earth.

My Commitment:

- \* To be more aware & create opportunities to dialogue in my community,
- \* To teach and share the fruit of the parliament with whomever I meet, and
- \* To find ways to gather interfaith groups together.

I will:

- 1) Inform people to participate in the World Blessing (Thursdays).
- 2) Continue to teach ESPERANTO, the international language, which puts all nations, races and religions on an equal level, since it is an "artificial language".
- 3) Inform all friends about the Parliament - especially the effective influence which the Native Americans had! *Gertrude Novak*

To bring spirituality into my gardening and share what I learn with others. I will wear the Parliament pin each day to remind myself of that commitment. Each year, up to the year 2000, I will plant one tree in my area to celebrate the future of interfaith understanding. *Julie Patti*

Do: personal exploration.

Do: dedicate my art to the purpose of furthering the goal of planetary healing.

Do: Organize interdisciplinary projects & meetings at the College of Creative Studies.

- 1) To go back to Tulsa Metropolitan ministry to recreate a Parliament of Religions in Tulsa and eventually in Oklahoma. To create a space for dialogue in these places among all the faith traditions.

2) As co-chair of the interfaith committee for the National Association of Ecumenical Staffs to discern how this Christian organization can invite and celebrate more diversity in our gatherings. *Sr. Sylvia Schmidt*

Hal's commitment - to spend the rest of my life actively engaged in cross-cultural neighborhood happenings in the urban/suburban metro-Chicago area, co-creating small faith communities that include and affirm persons of differences who are called into this common vision. Also-participate in Chicago's newly-born Interfaith Council born this week.

I commit to the children of all faiths.

Work on the dialogue between Native Americans and "New Agers" who are being called to heal the Earth.

Personal commitment through meditation, create poetry and music. *Andrew*

I am committed to work for the respect of all traditional people's cultures:

- a) Return of human remains
- b) Return of sacred objects
- c) Protection of people & lands
- d) Access to sacred sites
- e) Freeing of religious leaders in prison. *Melinda Perrin*

I want to continue my membership in the DuPage Interfaith Dialogue Committee. I also want to start an after-school tutoring program in my apartment building to keep ME & KIDS busy!

I intend to spread the feeling I've sensed and to take it to those for whom I am a representative. To help re-fire communitarian and co-operative efforts with those I know. To plant the seed and tend it. To tend myself better as well. *M. Sellers*

My commitment to:

- 1) Complete of M-Div/MTS.
- 2) Offer services to groups to create/develop repeatable training/education programs (Material

development & train-the-trainer as needed).

3) Put ordination on hold if it conflicts with 1 & 2.

4) Continuation of inner journey and increased discipline there-in. *Sandra S. Nesbit*

I commit myself to living open to  
\* the mystery in others.  
\* taking care that my personal choices further our global movement toward wholeness, and  
\* discovering effective ways for others to participate. *Judith Lindblad*

My commitment is to center myself consistently enough, just as I would in a true dialogue so that my person will be constantly receptive to the myriad of situations, tasks and opportunities I shall find myself in the days to come. In that way I will be doing the work of the world with organization, clarity and true spontaneity without being stagnated and habitual.

Do exactly what I have been doing but be more integrated, be able to have more fun doing it, to honor the child within.

In my regular course of career, I commit myself to work towards improving the religion sections in smaller daily newspapers, both in content and degrees of interest by the readership. *Bert Keilor*

Be more and more aligned with All That Is, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Walk my talk, speak my truth wisely in any and all situations.

See if we can create a Chicago-area Parliament of People, drawing on the computer's registration of participants for this Parliament.

I'm going to take back the idea of establishing an Interfaith meditation Garden in my town (through the already-existing Piedmont Interfaith Council) - all faiths buying land together and working it into a garden as adults and children together as a gift to the peoples of the city. *Cathie Holcombe*

As a means of practicing the Golden Rule all faiths share, I am committed to using the six simple steps of negotiation. I shall do this whenever disagreement arises, in order to develop a fair solution - good for all involved. I will also teach and model negotiation as non-violent means I will spread throughout my church, denomination, and the circles and communities within which I live.

I commit to connect during this next month with 3 people I just met at this Council. *S. Frankel*

Support Common Ground and the local interfaith circles.

As the co-chair of the Dialogue Challenge of the Interfaith Conference of Metro-D.C., I will use the Dialogue Model within the Dialogue Challenge area and hopefully in all facets of the conference paradigm. I got into the crystal clear river flow in dialogue today and saw how clear the river is. This is so beneficial to me as a spiritual counselor and will be highly invaluable for two groups that I founded. Thank God dialogue is the highest level of spirituality.

I commit myself to a dialogue with the U.U. minister, RE director etc., to establish a mid-week service in which materials and ideas of the Parliament of the World's Religions will be absorbed and applied. *Barb Johnson, Tampa FL*

Get together with a number of churches that already are organized into a group and inform them of what happened at the Parliament.

Continue teaching from many difference Holy Works and set up lectures with universities in Dallas to teach the Universality of Mankind.

To live the global ethic by trying to save Bosnians right now. No more ethnic "cleansing".

To reword the Abolish Genocide Petition so that it is applicable to my local area so that it can be utilized in the various political arenas.

To network with people of other groups and beliefs to address the ills of our global society within the framework of my religious parameters, based upon its earliest implementation.

To order the tapes of the Parliament for use for others.

I commit to learn the basic tenets of at least 7 world religions and to speak with a representative and/or visit the Houses of Worship of 3 of these in the next 3 months. *S. Frankel*

My personal commitment is to further the possibility of interreligious understanding and cooperation through my work with International Interfaith Centre in Oxford, UK. *Celia Storay, IIC Oxford*

Personal commitment: 1) To further develop the work of Unity and Diversity World Council in doing world festivals that include all religions. 2) To hold regular interfaith celebrations including dialogue. 3) To encourage the Council for the Parliament to continue and to develop ongoing programs in our region and others, culminating in other parliament not later than the year 2000. *Rev. Leland Stewart*

I commit myself to "walking my talk". I will educate myself about the global ecological crisis and do what I can to raise our collective consciousness on environmental issues. *Michael Frasure*

I commit myself to continuing my education so I can be of more service to my fellowman. I am going to continue my healing education, interfaith studies, and discover how I may be able to help a service organization and complete what may be needed. (a degree!?) *Dorothy Roberts*

Facilitate, design interfaith worship services.

To put my spiritual enlightenment back into society through:  
- propagating my spiritual practice & understanding others.

- art displays.
- open dialogue with others: a) necessity of tolerance; b) patience; c) negative emotions, etc.

*David Mintz - fine artist*

I commit to follow-up on this Parliament. London - October 1994. *Andrew, Spirituality - The New Global Fellowship.*

Seeking the company of 1000 idealists to comprehend the Spirit country. *Swami Atmatattwananda; Vedanta Society.*

I'm going to suggest that our local Interfaith Council host a Sacred Arts Performance, and I'll offer to work on it. *Cathie Holcombe*

Personal exploration of other scriptures and meditation techniques. Parliament regularly!

I am committed to leading a spiritual community in St. Louis, MO, USA as a wife and partner with my husband John at the Gateway Divine Science church beginning September 5, 1993. *Jeanne Caryl Copeland*

Share my experience of this week with my organization, World Sustainable Agriculture Assoc. and my church Ann Ree Colton Foundation of Nisience with specific suggestions and information for interested parties. Contact other professional associations of which I am a member distributing materials and/or giving talks/presentations.

I commit to work with groups in the Washington, DC area to build intercultural and interracial understanding.

My commitment is to co-create with the earth to produce food to feed the people who need it and to bring Peace to the people through dance. *Lorna Spring*

I commit to the children ... may I be guided. Amen.

I promise to tell about the world religious conference to my friends (Tibetans). I shall continue to

struggle for Independence of our country Tibet which is under Chinese invasion. May peace prevail on earth and in Tibet. Free Tibet. *Ngoedup Wangno*

It was a pleasure to attend World Parliament of Religions and Parliament of the People. I have got opportunity to meet people of many faiths and many lands. I have realized the common bonds among all faiths. I hope to strengthen these bonds for a better world. It is a good experience for me. *Dr. N.L. Jain, Rewa (India) 486001*

Vigorously pursue the publication of a book entitled "A View of Life: A Theology of Love" which I have been writing while commuting back and forth to work on a train for the past six years. Up until now I wasn't sure what to do next. I now feel the timing is right and have been empowered by this Parliament to pursue it vigorously. *Douglas A. Larson*

Will get more Muslim, Buddhist and Jewish members into the Minnesota Interfaith Ecology Coalition. *Elizabeth Dyson*

I commit myself to be more confident regarding my new belief that each and every tradition offers something that will help our own spirituality. I also hope to make our inter-faith clergy group meetings more worthwhile by encouraging each tradition to share what they are all about. This will really help to connect and unify us as a group. *Mary McGovern*

I am committed to helping persons in the church to think together about a sustainable future for Planet Earth. *Margie Tomlinson*

I commit myself to full time work uniting ecology and religion - to work on networking and skill building (dialogue). *Andrea Orcutt*

I am committed to work for world wide religious freedom: a) Access to sacred sites; b) Access to sacred objects; c) Right to practice with all religious materials, i.e. peyote; d)

Right to congregate freely; e) Right to language *Melinda Perrin*

I will work through my Peace and Justice Committee within my church to continue our dialogue with Black Christians but expand to open our minds and group to include all faiths. Send more love and healing to my son and all other Fundamentalists. Make my circle include them.

Continue to participate by sharing The Source with groups, increase the use of silence in multi-cultural, inter-faith groups as a way of building community. *Ellen E. Howie*

When I return to California I will enlarge my contacts from my local Presbyterian Church into the local United Nations and Peace Organizations as well as the arboretum. I will speak to other faiths, if allowed, through the Academy of Jewish, Christian and Islamic Studies. I will offer to spread the news of the aims of the Parliament to the local Buddhist Community. *Althea B.M. Laven*

I will commit to create a Sacred Arts Festival in my locality. Let's celebrate the awe and beauty of the Divine as each of our faiths see it by sharing with one another sacred celebration of music, dance, song and art. Let's also share how each of our faiths approach creating art. *Phaedrus of EarthSpirit Community-Boston, MA.*

I commit myself to sharing the vision I have seen and experienced here with my affiliations, friends and community. *Dorothy Roberts*

I commit to abiding in my sanctuary space at least once a day while I am home. *I Frankel*

I am committed to the health of Planet Earth: a) walking and living gently in a conscious way; b) learning more about her care; c) teaching others; d) working for change in laws; e) awakening minds. *Melinda I. Pin*

I'm going to issue a call at my church to form a group that works on

creative worship services on Wednesday nights, and incorporate in those some worship practices of other cultures. *Cathie Holcombe*

I commit to join with others to create opportunities for people to experience being part of one human family as a global celebration. a) In my work as a consultant in conflict resolution, community building working in the secular/religious environment. b) Reasons the relationship between man and woman is only in marriage and in Joseph's and my relationship. *Ongria Swain*

Seek out members of different faiths and continue the dialogue begun here. Support education of children about all faiths and cultures. Start an interfaith garden.

I am committed to learning more about spiritual and religious traditions and diversity, to more fully participate in the inter-faith process and the creation of a unified world. Take the ideas of a community garden and education of children re: all religions into the world.

I believe that: (1) at the level of personal consciousness, all religions can unite together. We're to develop collective consciousness for mutual understanding, love and harmony. For this, mass prayers of people of all faiths will be performed by my organization; (2) To propagate scientific religion irrespective of faith amongst youngsters, I've dwelled all over the globe and will continue it till 2000 AD. Till now 100,000 youngsters all over the globe comply with this thinking. (3) Publish the commitments as dedicated words in Journals/magazines. *Dr. Pzanar Pandya, MD*

## Silence And Mystery

The first step in inter-faith (or belief system) education must be to instill a consciousness of the fact that all is mystery, all is illusion; otherwise our students will only perpetuate the suffering of humanity described in our daily news. No belief system should be made an absolute.

The total human dialogue requires that all, religious and atheist, accept that *we know absolutely everything about absolutely nothing*, that we accept the *unknown* and the language of the unknown, *silence*.

The more educated we and our students become, the more aware of this and hence, the less fundamentalist we should be. If every religion, science and philosophy were to address us at a conference of three thousand more years, let alone three days, the UNKNOWN and its language of silence would await us at the conclusion.

There are many good books and meditation techniques which could be drawn on in setting up this basic grounding in the mystery of existence and life. May it help all appreciate the *humanity does not have to accept the claim by the adherents of any belief system, religious or atheist, to the right to dominate this planet or any part of it*. May it lead to peace in very sense of the world.

## Contemplation

It is contemplative persons who can truly bring into their own lives and the lives of others that total liberation of human persons that all religions seek to bring"

*From 1981 Declaration of World Fellowship of Inter-Religious Councils*

## Petition Against Genocide

Peace and blessings to all who helped distribute the "Petition against Genocide" and to all who signed it. It has been received at the Council of religious leaders, and has already been of immense aid, lending visible weight of the argument of those council members working to give the issue of genocide highest priority in

the council deliberations. To continue this effort -- call / write *Rasihid Patch, 1550 41st Ave, San Francisco, CA 94122; (415) 566-8165*. Praise that one we all worship!

## Aloha's Inner Meaning

Aloha International wishes to spread the message of Huna through the world. Huna is the ancient Polynesian philosophy of Aloha (love) and Huna (confidence). Aloha's deeper meaning is "the joyful (oha) sharing (alo) of life energy (ha) in the present (alo).

Bless the present

Trust yourself

Expect the best.

Aloha and Maluhia (peace)

*Mary Drake & Jana Knauss, Shamans, South Elgin, IL; (708) 742-5557.*

## The Flight of the Dove

Through the insight of peace  
wisdom of truth  
beauty of love

may the Dove of Peace unfurl (open to flight) in all that we all become bringers of peace with hearts carried on satin white wings til the earth is so embraced.

Aloha (love) and Maluhia (peace).

*Jana Knauss, Bringer of Peace, Elgin, IL; (708) 742-5557.*

## Apology

I want to apologize for no being present at the right time to present my paper "Christianity 'Born Again' For A New Age". If you will contact me at 7002 Dawson Rd, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243; (513) 891-9450, I will send you a copy of the paper.

*Dr. James W. Crocker-Lakness*

## Earth Spirit Calls

Brings your attention to the pivotal times when your letters can make the critical difference on specific environmental issues, and gives you the background you need to write a good letter, on 1 or 2 Action Items per issue, all in a nutshell. Writing such letters is perhaps the simplest and most effective single thing you

can do to help save the Earth. For a sample or to subscribe (\$10 for 6 issues, \$5 low-income). Contact *Emily Sweeney, (206) 734-2781, P.O. Box 4359, Bellingham, WA; 98227.*

## Commonalities

We must first look to discover our commonalities instead of our diversities. Unity begins with finding commonalities of truth.

*Dr. Daniel Conron, School of Metaphysics, (417) 345-8411*

## Announcing A New and Important Book

*A Science of Religion Using System Dynamics* by Arlen Wolpert.

The distinguishing feature of this book is the successful use of system dynamics to analyze, model, and simulate experiences associated with mystical union or samadhi. As such the book is nothing short of a breakthrough in religious studies. Then, by meditating on these models over the past nine years, I am beginning to isolate aspects of that experience that go beyond social and cultural bound religion and arriving at principles underlying an experientially based religion. These principles form the foundation of a science of religion that is in harmony with mystical tradition throughout the world.

The book costs \$10 and can be obtained from : *Arlen Wolpert, 411 Franklin Street #1008, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA*

## Next Time

AND THERE MUST BE. The Parliament should be called "Parliament For World's Religious Ways" so no true religion can be upset. And please find a place where use of energy can be contained : less use of too cool airco blowing too hard, less permission of paper to be around; no games as to who puts a bigger piece of paper on the Bulletin Board. But please one big, clear board for information about changes in the Parliament programme.

*Marie Mijnlieff, The Hague, Netherlands; +39 6 68801895*

### **The New World**

I have an interest in church-based organization which can help with the new-world-which-is-coming. Please keep in touch.

*Leonard Dubi, Priest - Pastor, Hazel Crest, IL; (708) 335-3221*

### **Sacred Sites**

I would like to work with or initiate an Inter-Faith Council to Protect Sacred Sites. If you know of such an organization, or would like to help with one, please contact me.

*Emily Sweeney, 843 Sudden Valley, Bellingham, WQ 98226; (206) 734-2781.*

Many of the world's problems could be solved by people learning the difference between what is temporary and what is permanent. Physical differences are temporary. Physical possessions are temporary. Why fight over temporary things that wither away? Live instead for that which is eternal - love, truth, justice, enlightenment. These we all share.  
*Laurel Fuller, Vice President, School of Metaphysics, HCR 1, Box 15, Windyville, MO 65783; (417) 315-8411*

### **Words from Confucius**

To put the world right in order, we must first out the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must first put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cultivate our personal life; we must first set our hearts right." Every holy scripture, from each part of the world and religion, teaches a way to accomplish this. It is the same thought world-wide: "treat / do unto others as you would have them treat / do unto you". Let us all carry the wisdom we have gained at the Parliament to all corners of the world. For we will all meet again.

*Dr. Barbara Condon*

### **Cultural Innovation**

ACES is dedicated to studying and appreciating the dynamics of cultural innovation, learning and change; to fostering dialogue between different viewpoints; to listening to the other and marginalized and to learn from them and to assist in their own development where possible and wanted; to celebrate our very diversity.

*Michael York, Academy for Cultural and Educational Studies, London, UK; +44 71 730 0911*

### **Peace By Peace**

We are the Children of Change --  
We have no past, no future - only the Now

When can we? When will we,  
Make our Voice heard?

We walk as One

*Geri Lennon, Peace by Peace, Intl, Dutch Flat, CA; (916) 389-8417*

### **A Common Language**

We must create a common language as a unifying force for humanity. A common, universal language with which the whole world can communicate the universal truths and universal laws of creation.

*Dr. Daniel Condon; (417) 345-8411*

### **Peace Be Unto You**

We provide a place of worship for muslims and "God" centered education and help for those who desire to receive them from us. We are proud to have had a part in the Parliament of the World's Religions through our brother Sheikh Imam Tadar Jihad Wazir. We play to Allah that the "ethnic cleansing / genocide in Bosnia, Kashmir, etc. will soon be a permanent thing of the past.

*Tadar Wazir, Marshall, Missouri; (816) 886-9793*

### **Gift To All**

The moment of joy and bliss; the time of unity and oneness. This Parliament of the World's Religions is a gift to all. May we each go forth to heal our planet Earth and be transformed through the process.

*Naomi Rosenberger, Co Springs, CO; (719) 633-0455*

### **Holy Mother**

Hail Terra,

Full of Grace.

Our Love Flows to Thee.

Sacred Art Thou Among Planets

And Sacred is the Fruit of Thy

Womb,

All Life

Holy Terra,

Our Mother Earth,

We Bow in Reverence

And Vow to Serve Thee

Now and Forevermore.

Amen.

*Frances Oliver and Andrew Oser*

### **Greetings**

from Dr. Howard Thurman's Church for the Fellowship of All People's - the first Interracial, Interfaith Church in the US. I welcome discussion or contact with anyone who's been influenced by Dr. Thurman's work. I will bring your message back to Mrs Sue Bailey-Thurman and the Church Family

*Mike*

### **Ride to New York**

I'm looking for a ride to New York or neighbouring states. Can share in driving and expense. Please call (708) 328-1705 and leave name and how to call you. Thank you.

*J.G. Powers*

### **A Call For Unity**

Point your truth straight  
You bearers of the light  
Depart not from the path  
Realize your dreams so bright

Focus on your breath  
Not allowing the mind's rational  
To disturb your inner peace  
Which aspires to the international.

Understand that the cause  
Lies with both you and me  
Past misdeeds and ill-thoughts  
Block the way to unity.

Throw down you arms  
You perpetrators of war  
Open up your other arms  
and love your enemy more.

Love the Lord your God  
Who dwells within and without  
Stand firm against oppression  
Not giving in to doubt.

Join together as a unit  
You children born from spirit  
Celebrate the fact you're different  
All creeds have their merit.

Be bold in your action  
Whatever you undertake  
Ask God for his help  
Love abounds for his sake.

Find peace in your heart  
Free from impunity  
And enlighten all the world  
With this call for unity.

*Andrew Shaw*

**To ensure receipt of messages, use orange box on TogetherNet counter, 6th Floor**

### **May the Joy**

of this event go with you to share with all you meet. Living this vision begins with each of us - now.

*Harriet Kofalk, Eugene, Oregon.*

### **Interfaith Meditation Garden**

My idea is to create an Interfaith Meditation Garden in Greensboro, where adults and children of all faiths get to know each other by working alongside each other to create the garden as a gift to the people of the city, to show what cooperation through diversity can do.

*Cathie Holcombe, Greensboro NC; (919) 288-7555*

### **100 Years From Now**

Assuming civilization and earthlife is healthy and flourishing, things we don't admit now but which will be religiously affirmed :

Science : (outer, inner and social) as a self-correcting reliable use of human intelligence to know and live well in Reality; The Erotic : aesthetic, sensual and sexual as helping us live healthy and whole; Vegetarianism : (or near to it) as promoting kindness, health and abundance; Spiritual Medicines : (peyote, mushrooms, ganja and newer counterparts) used occasionally in a normally non-intoxicated life as reminders of the sacred.

*Reverend Byron Carrier*

### **Pluralism and Resource Use**

IBMC with the American Buddhist Congress will be working with environmental / global development groups to help promote pluralism, world harmony, and responsible use of our precious resources. Be looking for active participation from the Buddhist community!

*Chrys Thorsen, International Buddhist Meditation Center, Los Angeles, CA; (213) 739-1270*

### **Undeniable Truths**

While maintaining our faiths and traditions, we must also develop some sort of commonality or shared basis of communication, allowing us to discover new truths in our own traditions that will help lead us to the sustainable world we need. It would be most desirable for this Parliament to begin the process of developing such a "meta-context" in which this joining together could begin to happen, a sage conceptual space of common ground,

There are identifiable elements that could enter into such a meta-context for religious traditions, including humanists and other non-subscriber to organized religion. Among these are certain (hopefully) undeniable truths. These include :

- We live in one cosmos, one universe
- We live on one planet
- We are a single species, human beings
- We share interdependency with the ecosystem for our lives and health
- We are all part of a single global system, in which the problems of others are our own problems, in one way or another
- We have all experienced pain and suffering
- We have common concerns for physical security, happiness, growth, peace (for ourselves, at least) and also other concerns

We all have a spiritual nature.

*Duane Sweeney; (206) 734-2781*

### **Sserulanda Foundation**

Founded in principle in 1957 by H.I.G. Bambi Baaba, it was officially registered as a voluntary self help foundation in 1987. Open to all humans, irrespective of religious, political, racial or tribal differences, it currently has a residential community of over 1000 members, including children. The City of Peace, Sseesamirembe, is the seat of the community. *Kalinansa, Secetaire, Sserulanda Foundation, Sseesamirembe City, Uganda, East Africa.*

### **Sserulanda Foundation**

Sserulanda, New York, was chartered under New York Law in 1988 as a not-for-profit, tax exempt organization. Its mission and goals are to support the rural development scheme of Sseesamirembe City in Uganda, East Africa and provide a model for international cooperation and sharing in the economic rejuvenation of under-developed areas of the planet.

*Kalinansa, Bd. of Directors, Sserulanda Foundation, New York, New York.*

### **Spiritual Resurgence**

The spirit of spiritual resurgence generated by the Second World Parliament of Religions should be continued and channeled through a small organizational structure.

*Homi Gandhi, Darbe Meher Zoroastrian Temple, Glen Rock, New Jersey, (212) 656-5689.*

### **Pursuit of Peace**

Let us cultivate the passion for peace to the exclusion of all other passions like anger, hatred, and revenge. Let us resolve to promote integration (unity), integrity (trust in truth), fearless convergence of convictions, and develop devotion, dedication and determination for the greater cause of the Melody of Harmony and eradicate the Melody of Ill Will. The best instrument to do this would be Patience, Persuasion, Perseverance, and Persistence, but never Provocation. This way, we will understand each other and understand one another. *Homi Taleyarkhan, Chairman, Temple of Understanding, Bombay, India, (Bombay) 204-4450.*

### **Global Unity**

Togetherness for global unity can be promoted by improving lines of communication, and flow of information in a planned manner among different regions within a country and between different countries and faiths. Exchange of visits of adults, youth and children to host families would stimulate interest in the concept of togetherness. Correspondence and friendship should also be encouraged among school and college students.

*Narendra Jain, Ambassador Doctor, Indore, M.P., India, 91-7272-3244.*

### **Mutual Understanding**

Time to act based on principle of each religion for mutual understanding and respect.

*Koshin Ogui, Buddhist Minister, Chicago, Ill. (312) 943-7801.*

### **Interfaith Dialogue**

The interfaith dialogue began in 1893 and widened by the popularization of eastern religious thought/ practice in the '60's is one of the major religious trends of the 20th Century. Perhaps a more important trend is not even represented at this Parliament- the growth of individual spirituality prompted by the 12 Step Movement, Alcoholics Anonymous. The Serenity Prayer is the best known example, but the 12 Step books, and groups are all indications of how deep and broad 12 Step spirituality has become. The openness/ acceptance of all is a hallmark of 12 Step groups and a good model for those who wish to encourage spiritual growth in any structured way.

*Unsigned, and Anonymous.*

## Reflections from the Assembly of Religious and Spiritual Leaders

This issue of *Your Voice* is dedicated to reflections and observations that were recorded by the facilitators at the Assembly of Religious and Spiritual Leaders at the Parliament of the World's Religions. The facilitation team has organized these reflections into categories that became apparent from an intensive overnight review -- and without the opportunity for adequate review for errors, typographical or otherwise. It should be made clear that the reflections are intended to be used as raw data that the Assembly may use in any way it chooses, and are offered in the hope that they will further the dialogue that has taken place at the Parliament and at the Assembly, and in no ways should be construed as involving any approval by the Assembly.

### The Declaration Of The Global Ethic

#### Provisional Endorsement

##### Commitment

- Declaration is the beginning of a process that is a challenge to us to improve it. State this formally in the document itself.
- We propose the prescript above our signatures we sign, as a first step towards a global ethic without necessarily being in full agreement with all in contains and with the understand that this begins a process to which we are committed.

##### "Towards"

- Add "towards" to the beginning of the title of the document
- Add the word "toward" to the global ethic put space in the declaration to allow additional work to happen to it. See this as the beginning of the dance (when it is seen as fixed it matters too much)
- Declaration State formally that the declaration is a working document that will be improve by a specific process that is defined i.e. put phrase at top in brackets (working document)
- Recommend call the global ethic a working document, best way to

ensure signatures and send message to world of cooperation.

- There are a number who will not sign the document unless this one change is made: It needs to be indicated that this is a global ethic put forth by The Council of trustees NOT the parliament.
- Would sign global ethic if title change to "toward a global ethic; mention made that this is a first step; will be refined at later gathering i.e. 1994 Brahma Kumaris

#### Proposals for Next Steps

##### Recommended Changes

##### Proposals for Ongoing Process of Development

- 4. USE of document
- A group be created to describe the core values held in common by the religious traditions of the world.
- All issues with the document should be attributed to faith community and learning among the assembly
- Continued revision of the Ethic might well be done using the Delphi Technique
- Future parliament. Create on first day drafting /editing committee

from representative religions/spiritual traditions to produce document which reflects current understanding and allows for modification.

- In the future, the continuing development of the Ethic can be better if it includes both members of the assembly and members of faith communities not currently represented
  - Look at verses in our own holy book for reference to Brotherhood, all on family.
  - Need to prove to the rest of the world that spiritual and religious leaders can come to an understanding; hence need to establish where we CAN AGREE and sign this document and agree to form committee with representation on traditions which disagree & dialogue on these differences to enhance document.
  - Scholars work on it, provision to bring it back for new signing.
  - Second drafting committee be formally created by the Assembly. Small group start by taking revisions from Bangalore into considerations; main job is to gather
- Set up task force comprised of 21-25 participants from council and assembly-global participation if

possible- all working towards a global ethic based on the uniqueness of oneness in diversity. (global scope of civilization) community of the earth. Need new ethic/culture to contain that vision- bringing us closer to the source- the supreme source. We want a permanent body to meet every 4-5 months. Committee to study the most effective models of venue and to utilize these models. Draft discussion regarding the most important issues of our time: violence, homelessness, AIDS, disease, sexual preferences

- Take the Bangalore Revisions into consideration and incorporate them into the document.
- We propose that there should be more involvement in the development of a global ethic. this would involve more participation by all the religions communities. This would be part of the formation of the ongoing council.
- Working group; The on-going development of a Declaration of a Global Ethic. A more democratic process be created in way that religious leaders participate in its development.

### *Opinions about the Declaration*

Concerns about Future Effectiveness of the Declaration

- 1. Opinions Of Document: Concern for document signing. When a document gets this much attention-with so many signatures-then there is the possibility that it moves them to the establishment of organizing efforts connected closely with the document. Many people felt left out of this document creation and are unsure of how it was developed-and unclear where it is leading in relationship to "next steps" of organizing-they would not want this lack of clarity and participation to continue.
- Document- Emphasis is on common ground - and basic principles- but who will make it work- what will be a practical process
- Document: its connection to future organizing. We have confidence in

the planners but there might be a negative world-wide reaction if people don't know what the end of desire process is.

Concerns about Ownership of Document

- Issue: Global Ethics document: Feel tension but wanting to support spirit of document and not wanting to condone the process
- Issues with muslim community : Equality of women, non-violence, right to protect oneself from attack
- Should not be final but rather demonstration of the current of our thinking.
- This document is an imposition, very like dictates from the pope which come down without respect for process.
- Too negatively written, should be re-written: the traditional global order gives birth to a new global ethic.
- We do not feel ownership of the document

Reservations about the Language

Reservations about the Text

- Reservations about Global Ethic: faith as practiced causes problems. This is missing on document; anthropocentric point of view needed; biocentric point of view needed; not strong enough, won't be remembered; document is secular-needs strong religious stand; manner adopted-not full deliberation of assembly
- The global ethic is incomplete.

Acceptance of the Basic Spirit

- The global ethic is an excellent statement of principles of which we have consensus.
- We accept the basis spirit of the document.

## **A World Assembly Of Faith Communities - A Parliament Of The World's Religions**

### *The Idea*

The Vision

- Create a permanent global council. an organization distinguished by: 1. involving the most senior level of leadership in religious tradition in real relationship; 2. it being the only multi-lateral vehicle; 3. it being on-going rather than episodic; 4. it focuses on networking existing organizations rather than directing
- Religious organizations can't now afford to isolate themselves we must join hands with others concerned with issues of great concern for this earth.
- That there be established an international, interfaith organization to continue and enlarge the work begun by the Parliament of World's Religions: an organizing committee be formed to explore the options for the creation of such a body; that this committee send representatives to visit a number of countries and religious communities to seek trustees, participants and financial support; that political leaders be drawn in as honorary trustees.

- We want a continuing spiritual council of religions encouraged by all faiths with authority from religious leaders so that interfaith council will be able to influence events.

The Need

- Any organizing effort now does not need to be seen as a duplication of efforts. There is so much work to be done in this area, but it would be important to get clear on the purpose and goals and to be communicating with others.
- Are there any specific thoughts on the ideas of continuing this parliament in some form of ongoing organization? What form is that?
- Existing international interfaith organizations should be supported. We don't need another one
- How is Parliament of World's Religions different from World Conference of Religion and Peace?

- Study other international interfaith organizations to see if need for on-going council work
- We need to use a model that will spark our imagination for interfaith dialogue and organizing

### *Purposes*

#### *Inspiring Spirituality*

- Being together, we are changed by the week by just being together: levels of fear and tension reduced; vital to see, touch, face one another; more frequent opportunities to do this
- Interfaith organizing needs to inspire spiritual development
- Remember - in interfaith organizing, the goal is to enliven people to go out with spirit and make a difference in the world.

#### *Issue Driven*

- Focus of acts should be on action, behavior and common tasks.
- Networking-nurturing connections by: a list of people; nurturing the sharing of materials; names of assembly participants with information about what they were doing: how
- To respond to world and local issues via page 1 and 2 of Global Ethic

#### *Catalyst, Connector, Facilitator*

An on-going organization, like the council already has been, should be a catalyst or facilitator -- not another interfaith body.

- There is a useful role for a service-oriented organization to provide a consultative and networking function among the existing international interfaith and world religious organizations.

#### *Relationships-Not Politics*

- Continue to meet to continue to dialogue and learn together. Continue to exchange ideas that work. Continue to work to commune together with each other via mail, phone, fax etc....

- Education: Youth be part of school a college curriculum developments.
- Establish significant, on-going interaction and relationship at the highest level among religious leaders. Take on one specific project together.
- Relationship building rather than decision-making. Do not use a political model.
- Should it be issue driven? Or is it about relationship-building?
- We are all here as individuals. If we want to form an organization, what would it represent, what would it do?
- We propose that the World Assembly of Faith Communities be a place of dialogue and celebration of difference, working together to the good of humanity rather than a political body.

#### *Daring to Look Within*

- New interfaith organization should invite faiths to reflect on whether parts of the teaching are causing problems we are trying to solve.

### *Meetings*

#### *Meeting Process*

- Change the way we handle time -- don't just use Western sound bite time. Slower rhythms possible.
- Future Parliaments: less like a carnival with so many things happening; more sessions with real dialogue rather than people making a case, proselytizing and posturing; rather than having people of the same religious and workshops - mix the attendance
- Have fewer presenters to encourage people to attend presentations of different faiths.
- Have new Interfaith Center in Oxford host Assembly
- Have written speeches available
- Keep record for all ideas mentioned.

- Reconvene Assembly in San Francisco concurrent with UN Anniversary.
- Update the source book
- Urgency of life requires the continuation of Dialogue through this assembly
- We need organizing styles and structures that help leaders listen to each other. We need alternative ways.

#### *Next Meeting?*

- Continuing Parliament. Time: form standing committee, appointment; meet every 3 - 6 months; major Parliament again in 10 years.
- Form standing committee; meet every three to six months
- Hope: that we continue to meet at least once every ten years.
- Should be reconvened periodically - there is no comparable body of religious leaders - existing ones focus on "educating others" and not on talking to one another.

### *Membership*

#### *Types of Participant*

- Assembly must empower itself to attract inter-faith leaders from all over the world. Provide funds to allow representatives from groups such as aboriginals and maori's.
- Convene the activists/field workers of the world's religions. Leave the academicians to other considerations of their own.
- Create new interfaith organization which includes scientists and scholars who are spiritually aware
- Most senior leaders of religious organizations; leaders of interreligious organizations; grassroots (women, young people, laity)
- Parliament continued. Involvement: women must be included in continuing committee.

- Participants -- should include very interfaith conscious Buddhists groups (new ones) from Japan
- Sensitivity to people of color and smaller groups
- Target people like interns and seminarians and those who run the seminaries.
- We need more than leaders alone - but the people, the common people, must strengthen this kind of movement - therefore we need people to network.
- Women must be included in continuing committee
- Youth must be a part of planning and actual participants

#### Keeping Connected

- Databank needed
- Give access to the list of 6,000 participants
- How will we keep a continuous link?
- Ongoing individual work: "twinning" -- find other person to connect with and commit to stay in touch, visiting, etc; as different religions -- visit each others homes on festivals, etc.
- Parliament continued. Concern: who chooses council, planning committee. Sensitivity, people of color, smaller groups.
- Parliament continued. Data bank needed.

#### Membership Principles

- A Parliament with real representation
- A permanent organization should only include religions that are at least 100 years old.
- Before convening another Parliament of the World's Religion -- need to define "religion" - I.e. not sure New Age, metaphysical are appropriate attendees. Who is really going to make something happen?

- Inclusivity clause built into organization: the right to name the religion you want to part of; the right to belong (the only people who are not here are those who have chosen not to be here)
- Kind of people should be "interested people" (not for namesake, not status)
- Some felt a Parliament or "United Nations" structure was appropriate. Others felt it was exactly the wrong way to go -- it was too political structure.
- The difficulty in creating a true umbrella organization is that it must be legitimate, which requires excluding "newer" (or fringe) religious groups. Not a problem if it's a network.
- We propose the establishment of a world assembly of faith communities with the voluntary membership of all faith communities in cooperation with existing interreligious agencies that share our global perspective.
- Who is in and who is out? Who is welcomed in? Who do we work with in order to do it - what is the purpose? is it to get everybody in?
- Who should be welcomed in? Those with a willingness to listen and who can respect each other's work, not those who can only promote their own religion.
- World Assembly of Faith Communities procedures should ensure inclusion of all faith communities and the possibility for their voice to be heard.

#### Organisation

##### Organisational Values

- Any future organization "hold" competing paradigms of thought and concern itself with those paradigms.
- Create new interfaith organization that makes a strong commitment to spiritual values.
- Parliament Continuing. Kind of people to be chosen! "Interested

people." Not for namesake, not status.

- Participants should be able to stand up for what their religions can offer the world on different issues.
- Participants should not do comparisons of religions when they intend to do "one-upmanship" over other religions.
- Questions we need to ask -- What do religious or spiritual people bring to the issues? Our organizing must look at the character of our activities - our style of organizational activity...is it simple or lavish?
- Questions we need to ask ourselves is what do religions or spiritual people bring to the issues. Our organization must look at the character of our activities, our style of organizational activity and whether it is simple or lavish. We must question the character of our organizing and the proposed activities.
- Realize truth of supreme experience given by divine consciousness - do not allow ourselves to be bogged down by our process i.e. national identity, religious identity, individual identity. No dogma period. Go deep within from core.
- Religious organizations have no boundaries and are meant for working for all - for the progress of humanity
- We hope that we can take this reverent attitude we have toward each other - what we continue to come nearer and nearer to each other and carry it forth from this place to those we serve.

#### Short & Long Term Planning

- Council should try to define what it can do in the future that is not currently being done.
- Develop plan for action to create public opinion.
- Formulate an agenda, come out with a clear focus - with others input from all over the world.

- Longer term thinking needed now. Take a look into the next 100 years. The 21st century is predicted to be a spiritual centering . . . Movement for that needs to be a broad movement.

- The "Global Council" must have two horizons within which it plans and acts: 1. Immediate crisis - killing and hurting of indigenous people; 2. Longer term - building a process and capability to tackle more difficult problems.

- Thoughtful analysis on issues of the day (e.g. environment)

#### Funding Strategy

- After 1st Parliament in 1893- no mainstream religions would have anything to do with it - no funding, no participation in organizing. This is the struggle that follows.

- Combine multi-religious input around social and political issues -- so that all are pushing in the same direction

- Create a new interfaith organization that is large so it can receive funds.

- Egalitarian financial support for world assembly of faith communities: to share the burden; to overcome undue vested influence; to ensure broadly shared commitments

- Funding by well wishers and philanthropists will come forward. Start small, not big superstructure. Grow by increments.

#### Structure

- Any future organization should not be bureaucratic, but a network

- Be a truly international organization in sponsorship.

- Group of Presidents is not necessarily a permanent body.

- Parliament continued. Regionally developed. Report to larger.

- Regionally developed parliaments report to the larger.

- Select an inclusive and sensitive name for the ongoing assembly (United Nations of Religion has a political overtone. Gathering? Council? Parliament?)

- We want to exist after Monday. Assembly must empower itself. Balance between administrative wing, secretariat voters etc.....

#### Preparatory Committee

- Convene a smaller meetings of world interfaith organizations to decide the next step.

- Develop a consultation body drawn for representative groups to supervise the implementation or execution of a new round of meetings to move to more solid ground. If we can't build that body than we have to accept this as a "loose" body.

- Parliament continued. Trustees need to be empowered by assembly.

- Preparatory committee representing faith communities established immediately to work towards a world council of faith communities.

- To give this institution a constitutional and substantive shape, the parliament decides to set up a preparatory committee of interested individuals with the support role of the present council of the Parliament of the World's Religions. The preparatory committee should formulate its report within a year and propagate to the participants through the Presidents of the 1993 POWR, drawing upon the experience and cooperation of existing national and international bodies devoted to interfaith cooperation.

- Trustees need to be empowered by assembly.

Widest possible consultative task force to explore the proper framework and common agenda to facilitate the work of interfaith dialogue.

#### Space for Silence

- 10 minute silence evoked a feeling of deep mutual respect and caring for every participant

- Develop a consultative body drawn from representative groups to supervise the implementation of a new round of meetings to move to more solid ground.

- Meditation, (contemplation and prayer, silence) should be and have been a major feature, as it is the core unifying force we all share.

- To do dialogue we must first be in silence!! We want to have speech full of silence, words coming out of silence.

- We want 10 minute meditation (silent) as part of dialogue tomorrow.

## Promoting The Inter-faith Movement

### Inter-religious issues

#### Proselytizing

- Conversion issues. Challenge to interfaith religion: Trying to convert people. The idea that, "We have the only way through our prophet."

- Problems with conversion/missionary activities. Social tensions created in these environments. This problem very wide spread.

#### Critical Questions

- Are we really prepared to meet and accept all religions and faiths?
- If we want unity, why do we continue to exclude?
- Intolerance closes many avenues to political and social dissent. Minority religions are marginalized and persecuted.

### Inter-Religious Initiatives

#### Need for Networking & Exchanges

- Form interfaith groups and listen.

#### Dynamic Interfaith Education

- Bring in people from outside our faith to educate us and increase tolerance and understanding.

- Develop comprehensive programs for educating both children and

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adults in understanding the various religious traditions and sharing worship (particularly silent prayer) with them; seek also for ways to develop cooperative projects for service to the poor, sick and needy involving participants from different religions.

- Educate children of the world. school in every state and country. Multiple languages taught, open to all. Network between schools. teachers training school. draw children of a greater global future which will support and strengthen the vision of Parliament. Support a global future for all of humanity.

Inter-religious programs may be a part of comparative religions at an early age.

- Let our children play together.
- Look for where things are working well in interfaith activity. Look for principles of why is working well.
- Offer interfaith courses on site of religious practice and get college credit for it ( of course, people of different faiths would take this class).
- On a local level mobilize interreligious groups and the "family of religious adults" in individual religious as the agents of newly energized educational efforts.
- Performing Arts - Storytelling. Experience in dynamic ways such as stories, drama, music, dance, the tenets of each other's faith, i.e., Thursday night's plenary.
- Persuade all religious centers (churches, temples, synagogues, mosques) to set aside time one month for an interfaith lecture, festival celebration, dialogue session, or shared worship experience to better educate their members on the beliefs and practices of other religions.
- Share efforts toward unity, interfaith projects with entire Parliament. Examples: celebrate the birthdays of religious leaders; teaching all faiths/religions in school; teach that Jesus is one of

many; teach that there are no "chosen people;" begin classes for young people with a non-religious moment of meditation.

- Undertake scholarship, research and education on the resources for inter-religious dialogue and cooperation that exist within our individual spiritual traditions. These resources would include; myths, stories, symbols and ceremonies.
- Use the Parliament as a means to pursue education about the various religions. this education would be provided through membership in the World Parliament. Education also in promoting interfaith exchange.
- We challenge members of the assembly to go back into their own traditions to educate in order to promote tolerance, respect, understanding, and appreciation toward all spiritual traditions. Education to promote tolerance was the single most important concern of our group.
- We want to bring other religious leaders and representatives to come to be with our children and share their wisdom and help broaden their minds.

#### Spiritual Education

- Early education should emphasize: 1) Development of heart as well as mind, 2) cultivation of justice - not prejudice, 3) skills to support the common good.
- Hope that we focus on creating the possibility for the children to experience respect and love. We hope that we will use our experience to transmit values to children.
- Hope to put the universal experience of silence or silent energy into our educational system. Differentiate silence or silent meditation from "prayer" and we believe we can give children a great gift for life.
- Hope: That a virtual mass of people would realize that all religions express the same thing,

come from the same essential consciousness.

- Identify the basic, underlying truths that are common to all spiritual traditions. work together to determine how these might be implemented locally through education, knowledge, and information.
- Positive aspects of religion. Market films of spiritual heroes.
- Task for Parliament (children and adults): Compile bibliography of children's and adult books which have interfaith themes.
- We hope that we can achieve the clean mind. we hope that we can recognize the spiritual nature of man. we hope that we can give children the space to remember who they are. we hope to teach correct relationships.

#### Ethical Education

- Suggestion: start classes on Peace education in the school systems.
- We should promote universal education which teaches ethics and inner meditative practices.

#### *Inter-Religious Committees*

##### National Interfaith Councils

##### Mass Media Monitoring Team

##### Inter-Religious Think Tank

#### *To The World...*

##### Interfaith Celebration Day

- Actions- A peace prayer established for all people...
- Celebrate differences- have a Festival of Faiths
- Future events- Parade-the most important things is for people to see "us" together
- Identify ways that we can celebrate our new emerging unity and interdependence as well as our common dependence on the earth. Build this celebration into all educational efforts.

- Proclaim annual Interfaith Day of Peace to be observed worldwide with both interfaith marches and prayer vigils for peace and harmony.
- We want an Interfaith Celebration day in the spring around spring solstice time—a celebration of continuous renewal. All faiths have a special holiday at this time of year. 1c April 8th Buddha Birthday
- We would like to have a world Silence Day in the spring to celebrate our continuing work.

#### Interface with Secular World

- Develop plan for reaching out to the non-believers to enlist them as cooperating partners of the religious believers in upholding values and principles of high moral and ethical standards. They too are members of the human family.
- Hope: That interfaith leaders lead way to influence decision makers by developing joint expressions of common values and principles.
- Suggestion- Spiritual leaders must interact (but stay independent) with political leaders and members of community to influence decisions; policies toward the good of everyone
- Suggestion: People at all levels practice and learn to use spiritual and religion goodwill to influence their work and world...this will impact political and social systems
- The assembly should be working through?with U.N. leadership, safeguarding one another.
- Through all interfaith organizations at all levels, reach out to the local, national and international political leadership to try to influence their policies and behavior in favor of human rights and public welfare: try by all means to spiritualize politics.

#### Managing the Media

- Brief sentences on issues stay in sparkling, clear way. Say: this is remarkable historical development; we have a new fellowship of leaders that have identified areas of

common concern refer to follow-up meetings

- Hope that we will learn how to communicate the essence of religion traditions in common to people. Find ways to involve media
- I would love to see representation of the task force go around to schools and neighborhood centers, hospitals and places where people live to encourage local press coverage of a world wide effort to share the concerns of the parliament.

- Issue agreement on "five" points as basis for ongoing discussion, i.e.: religious harmony, mutual respect for religious, spiritual traditions, commitment to offer wisdom on how to deal with problems facing society, global social and economic justice

- Make a report or position paper to send message to politicians, business, communities around various issues--supporter endorsed by entire religious community.

Media-Less on business of killing and more on business of living

- Media-will there be positive stories happening by media when parliament ends???
- Recommendations - that an international interfaith media/communication network be formed to give mass coverage to developments related to interfaith dialogue and corporation through the use of pamphlets and brochures, news release and radio broadcasts, live and on tape.
- Religious issues receive unfavorable press coverage, either focus on bad things (conflicts, division issues) or making fun
- Tell the story of this gathering to those at home: What has this parliament and assembly been?

#### Interfaith Publication

- Newsletter-monthly or Quarterly to all present

- Publish book that contains the essence of the common fundamental principles of all religions-translated into all languages
- There is a need for an interfaith publication of high quality

## **Issues For The Attention Of The World Assembly Of Faith Communities**

### *Caring for the Earth*

#### Peace

- Endorse summit on world peace. Assembly should endorse convening of World Peace summit in 1995 of top spiritual and religious leaders of all faiths with the single agenda item of the prevention of all wars in the name of religions, and the settlement of all disputes through dialogue. Originally proposed at the second international Conference on Peace and non-violent action held by Anuvrat Global organization, 2/17 - 2/21, 1991.
- Issues identified: Poverty; Peace; Concern for conversion pressure; Moving beyond the words of a statement to gainful action; Practicing ideals; Language barriers- especially gender; Children and youth endangered; Concern that document is connected to elitism

#### U.N. Representation

- Assembly adopt UN seating resolution that either all major religions should be represented or seated at the UN or none of them should be.
- United Nations. In December 1992, U.N. general assembly adopted an International document on the rights of minorities. there will be a proposal (a written document) presented to the Parliament Assembly on Saturday for its adoption by the assembly. This document will be an urging of the United Nations to adopt the document on Human Rights.

Immediate

- Possible global reactions to violence: the Parliament vote to condemn violence in Bosnia and appeal to the Security Council of the United Nations. Take a stand on gun control issues in the U.S.
- We would bless and encourage the peace process currently taking place between Palestine & Israel.
- Working Group: 1) immediately condemn the inter-religious warfare taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

#### Social Change Taskforce

- People who are gifted in specialist areas in relationship to the ills of the world, e.g., drugs, youth be empowered to share their expertise and affect change in these areas.

#### Future of Religion

- Issue: New type of fundamentalism sweeping the world. This is true all over globe. This has an economic part as well as a religious one, for example, a single economic system pushed on world community.
- Religions themselves may be on the way out. There will be another form of searching for spirituality. Religious ideas may take on a broader, more universal expression.

#### Earth Care

- Actions by Parliament: World charter by nature (written by UN) be adopted as the moral guide for ecological behavior
- All religions need to reaffirm the sacredness of the universe as the primary revelatory manifestation of the divine. Universe is our source of the ultimate mysteries of existence. Just as the first parliament celebrated the connection of spirit to human, the primary connection of our times is human earth issues. Economic inequalities and warfare among the nations contribute to the issues.
- Appreciate Gerald Barney's work: assembly formally accept his report; assembly acknowledge his efforts by saying they appreciate his work; copies given to all assembly members

- Assembly needs to address immediate issues such as environment and global conflict (Bosnia)
- Fight against pollution. Relationship with 21st century.
- Form commissions in key areas: 1. education and understanding; 2. conflict resolution/prevention; 3. sustainable development; 4. the crisis of spirituality, not only private but collective spirituality
- Issues to focus on: - violence; economics; environment; promote respect for all religions
- Priorities -- environment, respect of nature, children, violence, homelessness, AIDS, the poor, the sick and diseased

- Two tenets are important to "re-vision" human values: 1) respect for all forms of life; 2) respect for all life support systems as a natural, logical extension of the first principle
- We are here not just for people but for the whole household -- animals, plants, all inanimate life. Our job is to care for the whole earth.

#### Emergency Interventional Resources

- Technical support for resources should be provided to communities torn by violence: water, power, health services... Formation of a network of such support should be at a grass roots level.

#### Radical Recognition of Women

##### Empowerment of Women

- 3. Empowerment of women: Include women in decision making processes of the world's religious institutions, also provide education for women.

##### Challenge Religious Exploitation of Women

- Attitude towards women must change.
- Can we as a Assembly address the exploitation of women in the name of religion?

- We support women networking at a local national and global level.
- Women must be treated with respect.

#### Dispelling "Less Than" Myths

- 1. Dispelling less than myths: Why were there no major women's events at the Parliament? Why did the women do all the work while the men were at the podium?
- Our job is dispelling the myth of women as "less than" bringing her to the level God made her.
- The international religions community can sign up in solidarity with the women of the world. Document available for signing, now. Women's liberation.

#### Human Rights

##### Indigenous Rights

- Move quickly and definitely to formally acknowledge the world has great problems and religious institutions have been the source of many of these problems by failing as religious people, not practicing what we preach and this has been most difficult for indigenous people.
- The indigenous people must be formally recognized and apologized to and the Council must do this in some explicit way.

##### Social Justice

- A declaration could be signed as a statement of support and solidarity of the human rights of another group were violated.
- Gandhi said, "We want to wipe every tear from every eye." - our spiritual, social action.
- Heighten awareness and loosen purse strings. We need to raise the level of consciousness that the human relations is the number one priority of mankind (and a loosening of purse strings) to support this effort.
- Issue: Need to address the violations of human rights in the name of religion, the suffering of people because of belief.

- Issue: There is a vacancy in interfaith work in the area of human rights.
- Ongoing Parliament Work: commit to work for a speak out together; social justice (equality for all sexes, races, religions); for the poor, disabled, young, old, minorities.
- Purpose: World without war is still our goal.
- Religion must stop blessing guns and soldiers.
- Suggestion: Find ways to address problems on our own doorstep. What can we do now?! Assembly talk about human rights or address homelessness and what to do about it.
- Suggestions: A human rights watch set up in each education. Majority religion set up a watch to protect minority religions in the country.
- We condemn genocide in all of its forms.
- We must provide a centralized support system for justice.

#### Economic Justice

- Economics as source of religious conflict. Council should sponsor investigation/study.
- Economics: war against pain.
- Eradication of poverty involves: organized communities gathering information about the needs of neighboring communities which they might help to serve.
- Issue: Poverty and lack of basic needs of many of world's peoples. Inequality of wealth and distribution of resources.

Quality of life. Economics. Support economic growth, education, health care.

- Suggestion to address poverty: Need to fight against laws and policies which promote and divide people. Struggle against the system which disempowers.

- Suggestion: Need to have economic equality, some kind of just distribution of wealth and resources. Globalized understanding of use of resources.

## Resolving Conflict

### Dialogue

#### Forums on Otherness

- Leaders want to continue the dialogue beyond the Parliament, they deeply appreciate the experience of being together and experience a communion of commitment to on-going interaction.
- Need a forum to raise views on neutral ground to come to understanding between religious and spiritual traditions without this the danger of arriving at least common denominator is unavoidable.
- Need inter-faith dialogue between mainstream religion and fundamentalist groups.
- We need each other's "otherness" to confront each other and learn from one-another.

#### Deepening Dialogue

- Before there can be serious dialogue, people need to be heard, a prerequisite for being heard is to have access like POWR, however necessary this is insufficient if the number of people willing to listen is few. There is need to hear from and listen to the citizens of the Third World.
- Can we develop through our dialogue a better understanding of the differences between cultural and religious factors, such as the cause of female suppression all over the world, with the Islamic world as a case in point.
- Deep Dialogue: have representative group willing to go DEEP into issues.
- Dialogue needed for: scientists and religious leaders to talk about world issues; religious leaders

among themselves to review difference in theology

- Dialogue on religions, truth and differences.
- Go beyond victim and oppressor.
- Hope: One continuing dialogue can make the human heart more deep, more broad
- Issues that need East/West Dialogue: Western traditions think meditation is demonic; Why is there such a global impression that Islamic women are oppressed and dominated
- The very act of dialogue here, ( the way we have been here together) is a religious act.

#### Centre for Dialogue & Mediations

- Hold inter-religious dialogue events in countries where there is a lot of religious friction and bring the local religious leaders into that dialogue. Televisc and broadcast widely so that the whole country/region is exposed to the dialogue as an example.
- International arbitration mediation council.
- Learning Center for dialogue and mediation.

### Conflict Resolution

#### Conflict Education

- Focus our effort on 4 or 5 religions, most conflicts occur within a few religions: Hindu, Muslim, Judaism, Christianity. Start with these and other big one- don't spread our efforts and resources thin.
- Local/Regional POWR: focus these especially on local conflicts

#### International Inter-faith Conciliation & Mediation Team

- Bring in facilitators, educators, counselors and psychologists to work with children at the site of conflicts. Objective -- try to prevent ravages of war from transferring/proceeding from generation to generation.

- Many projects to not be launched when situation is out of control. Anticipate escalation of problems and address before situation gets out of control. Establish on-going programs in those areas.
- On-going network should support local education and training in conflict resolution, morality and collaboration
- Ongoing network should support local education and training in conflict resolution, morality and collaboration.

#### Inter-faith Conflict-Healing Sanctuaries

- A working group be established to condemn all war, especially religiously motivated war and to intervene appropriately
- Intervene in conflicts create a commission of religious leaders on call to: go to the site of conflict; mobilize resources for peace; caution must do more than walk around visit must listen to people and do something
- Permanent Council to go around to places of conflict in the world as a moral force perhaps connected to the UN.
- Task force/inter-religious peace delegation sent to world flashpoints, truly inter-religious, sponsored by Council, case: Franciscans of Assisi visiting Hussein and releasing hostages.
- That there be formed an international and inter-faith conciliation & mediation service to provide for quick intervention in the case of ethnic and religious conflicts through: consultation with adversarial groups; quiet efforts at mediation and reconciliation; public appeals for the end of violence where it may occur

#### Withdrawing Local Support for Religious Violence

- Task force to create a container with international power in religious sector for social renewal and healing. A safe place for polarized groups to meet; to admit fault; to ask for forgiveness; to do

something without rankle; to be accountable in change

- The on-going work could include creating reconciliation and mediation centers

## Practicing What We Preach

### *Being the Demonstration*

- Lack of compassion: Some people feel they will help another only if he/she is in their faith. Charity: you are not a believer in God if you can sleep while your neighbor is hungry.
- Listen, think, Do: Post-Parliament Commitments
- Major challenge is ego.
- Promote positive aspect of religion, i.e., religious leaders are here. Emphasize more spirituality in leaders, essence of faith without excess ritual. Fact religion is also doing wonderful things.
- The world needs a clear and strong demonstration of our belief in God, manifest in the way we treat one another.

We are here to model the changes we seek to create. Create from place of humbleness, joy, humor, smiles, representative of every faith, culture, sexual persuasion, feminine represented. bold statements generated about common areas of concern.

- we want to ask each of us to have a focused meditation of ten minutes a day on the ongoing work of the Parliament (when we awaken).

### *Change of Heart*

- Individual commitment to study all religions, to show respect to all faiths and paths, never to criticize religions or founders of religions.
- Our hospitality toward each other is a sacred hospitality.
- Use of the "Magna Carta of friendship and Decency to all People."

- What is most essential is the change of heart and change of mind to be willing to live together. this can only be achieved when each of us brings the spirit of respect and openness to a dialogue from this will to understand and will to live together we can leave the agony behind.

### *Living It*

- Hope that "positive" influences of religion can prevail over "negative" aspects of religion.
- Issue: How are we actually living the principles of our religions on a day-to-day, person-to-person basis?
- It is perceived that if one studies and practices one's own tradition at a deep level, that person will also understand the deep principles of another's tradition. this level of piety provides common ground.

### *Right Now!*

- Immediate individual work: capture this experience while hot and Parliament is news. Go out, speak to folks, use video, write open letter to editors.
- One next step will be for me to bring the ethic to some small groups in my community that will want to dialogue about it.
- Re-insertion of spirituality into every walk of life: into United Nations; into political world; into family life; into business
- Two commitments: each Assembly representative here to commit to continuing or beginning interfaith dialogue upon return to his or her home place; each Assembly representative here to commit to equal opportunity and education for men and women.

### *Commitment*

- At our grassroots in realistic practice Sunday service, once every three months, "Awareness of global consciousness." Service on Sunday will be conducted using universal terminology, avoiding own terminology. Buddhist teacher.
- General atmosphere of my group was one of top cooperation and

consultation. Individual commitments were given and many recommendations. Ended by offering invitations to visit each other and stay in touch.

- I commit as editor of our monthly magazine to have an article from people of different faiths.
- I commit to meeting with people, talking with people, sharing with people, learning with people, getting together with people, channeling our energy for survival and creating a climate of co-existence through awareness of oneness.
- I commit to once a month visiting another faith's temple.

- Work to fully understand community structure as a model of strengthening the understanding that the global is local and vice versa

## ***In Recognition Of Chicago - Thanks***

### *Historic Milestone*

Importance of this parliament: The impact of seeing and hearing, with a large number of religious groups that are here.

- Let there not be a memory gap of the importance of interfaith meetings.
- This event is very significant.
- This is a milestone along the way of interfaith. This Parliament: 1) is historic; 2) globalized so much energy for the benefit of so many people.

### *Powerful Model*

- Chicago effort - Might now work to fully understand the community-based structure - as a model of strengthening the understanding that the global is local & vice versa.
- Chicago has presented us with a powerful model of a community that is finding its global reality- and in its spiritual diversity: built a Parliament on the strength of that- which would also strengthen those connections and recognition of that every day reality in Chicago.

