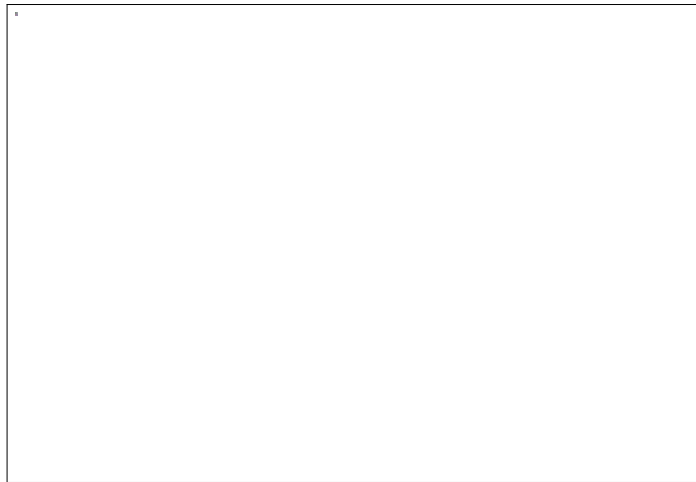


United Religions Initiative

Ending religiously motivated violence, building peace.

August 2003

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María Eugenia de Crespo, Argentina and Joyce Ng'oma, Malawi -
URI Global Council Trustees

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1. International Day of Peace

You are invited to participate in the United Nations International Day of Peace on September 21. Read what URI members are already planning and learn how you may participate at

<http://www.uri.org/abouturi/edrreport/index.asp>

2. Anniversary of URI Charter Signing

URI's global community participated in 72 Hours of Gift Giving June 26-28 to celebrate URI's third anniversary. Following are some of the events that took place during that time to support the local work and the global URI. If you are interested in the full listing of all projects that took place, contact Jennifer Kirk at jkirk@uri.org

Pakistan



In Islamabad Pakistan, 210 people gathered to celebrate URI's Third Anniversary and hold an Interfaith Peace and Harmony Conference. After recitations from the Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Baha'i and Zoroastrian holy books, a peace candle was passed from person to person—each sharing the light and hope of interfaith cooperation.

Joining in the celebration were many public and religious figures. Justice Javed Iqbal spoke of how the URI Charter affirms the dream of Pakistan's founding father, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, that all people in Pakistan would be able to freely practice their religion. Among the many honored guests were Chief Justice Dr. Hasim Hasan Shah and Archbishop Lawrence John Saldanha.

Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Imam from Badshahi Mosque, called for respect for all religions in Pakistan. Mr. Hussain Jahanian, Provincial Minister for Literacy, requested that URI create more such events to further develop Interfaith Dialogue programs.

Seven awards were presented for outstanding promotion of peace and harmony in Pakistan. URI was acknowledged for leadership in bringing media attention to the willingness of people from different layers of society and diverse religions to stand together.

Chile



An interfaith ceremony was held to honor the Relics of the Buddha Sakyamuni from Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand. It was sponsored by the Santiago Spiritual Forum for Peace CC. Rabbi Roberto Feldman, José Painiqueo of the Mapuche people, and Roman Catholic, Protestant, Islamic, Baha'i, Sufi and Brahma Kumari members offered prayers for peace in the ceremony. Sufi dances and Brahma Kumari meditations were also offered. The Relics will eventually reside at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Circle Chairman Gerardo González addressed the audience about the macro-ecumenic movement and URI's anniversary. About the event, he said, "Throughout all these activities we deeply loved and enjoyed the spirit of URI. It was a beautiful way of celebrating our third birthday!"

Mozambique and Malawi

In Africa, URI's anniversary was observed by the Mozambique Multiple

Cooperation Circle with a 72 Hours Meditation and Prayer Vigil, and a seminar workshop for women about HIV/AIDS. The Liga Dos Escuteiros de Mozambique CC implemented a Games for Health program for children patients in the Pediatric Hospital in Maputo.

Malawi's Thunga Cooperation Circle offered June 26th as a day dedicated to prayer offerings for the end of the HIV/AIDS pandemic around the world.

3. Peacebuilding

Good News for Peacebuilding Project in Brazil: *People Making Peace*

The *Gente Que Faz a Paz* (People Making Peace) project has received R\$ 100,000 (approx. US\$ 33,000) donation from the Brazilian petroleum company, Ale. André Porto, URI's regional coordinator for Latin America, reports "We were qualified in a State Tax Deduction program so private companies investing in the project get 80% deduction in their taxes. This should open the door for more donations in the near future!"

The *People Making Peace* project brings together a variety of peacebuilding methodologies in a precedent-setting collaboration of organizations including UNESCO, Viva Rio, URI, Palais Athena, Unipaix and others. The kit they are developing should be completed next month, and be translated into Spanish by the end of the year.

New Book: *Positive Approaches to Peacebuilding: A Resource for Innovators*

Cynthia Sampson, Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Claudia Liebler, Diana Whitney - Editors

Chapter on URI by Charles Gibbs and Barbara Hartford

This path-breaking book is a bold invitation to peace-builders to consider new approaches - "positive approaches" - to transforming conflict and building peace in some of the most complex of human situations. It is a call to shift from focusing predominantly on the conflict, struggle, and suffering to shining light on cooperation, coexistence, and visions for a better future.

Chapters by some of the leading practitioner/scholars as well as some fresh

new faces in the field are full of ideas for making this shift. The hope of the contributors is that these ideas will be useful and will capture the imagination of readers who will apply them, adapt them further, and go far beyond them in innovating with positive approaches to peacebuilding.

To order a copy or to read the Table of Contents and Introduction to *Positive Approaches to Peacebuilding*, go to **www.pactpublications.com**.

4. End Religiously Motivated Violence

Support peace now – URI needs your help to support its efforts to end religiously motivated violence. Gifts of all sizes are welcome!

[Donate to URI](#)

Donate Now!

5. Take Our Website Survey

We are asking our members and URI friends online to offer comments and suggestions about the URI website. Please take a moment to fill out this online survey. You will automatically be entered to win a URI t-shirt.

Go to Survey

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