



## URI eUpdate for May 2003

### Our Monthly Electronic Newsletter

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URI Global Council members congratulate Ven. Dr. Jinwol Young Ho Lee on the selection of Seoul, Korea as the site for the Global Assembly 2005

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### 1. Announcements

- Good News! Seoul, Korea has been selected as the location for URI's next Global Assembly in 2005! Ven. Dr. Jinwol Young Ho Lee has been a long time board member and founder of URI's activity in Korea. Dr. Lee and our network in Korea will coordinate and host the event.
- We are pleased to announce that the Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund has awarded a \$75,000 grant to support the work of the United

Religions Initiative. The Goldman Fund has been a long-time and strong supporter of the URI for which we are grateful.

- Congratulations to URI peacebuilding endeavors. The Greenville Foundation of Northern California has awarded a generous grant of \$17,000 for continued development of URI's Interfaith Peacebuilding Curriculum. These funds will enable us to design, produce and begin distribution of the curriculum to our global network.

## **2. Give to URI and Give to a More Peaceful Future**

Even as we yearn for peace and security, people all over the world people are trapped in fear. In this climate, the promise of URI has never been clearer.

URI offers a proven model of practical, values-based cooperation. As witnessed by the stories of our members building bridges across faith traditions, the URI is actively fulfilling its purpose to promote interfaith cooperation and to end religiously motivated violence. You are an important part of that work.

**Please help sustain that work by making a financial gift today to support the URI.** Your dollars go to support the thousands of people working daily to create cultures of peace, justice, and healing. Together we are making a better and more peaceful future.

For information about how to make a monthly contribution, please contact us at **[jkirk@uri.org](mailto:jkirk@uri.org)**.

**Donate online!**

## **3. Global Council Meeting**

May 4 – 8, 2003

URI brought leaders from 21 countries together for a meeting of its governing board – the Global Council. The meeting was held near Healdsburg, California. The purpose was to report on global activity,

conduct strategic visioning, and to strengthen global connections. Meeting time was interspersed with time for spiritual offerings and resource sharing.

Read more in the news article published by the *Sonoma West Times & News*

#### **4. 72 Hours of Gift Giving for the URI**

June 26 – 28, 2003

Join with URI members around the globe to celebrate the third anniversary of the URI Charter signing! Cooperation Circles around the globe are busy planning events and activities to raise funds to support their local work, to share with other CCs and with the global network. There are as many different plans as there are CCs – everything from a sacred music festival to selling peacebuilding materials to hosting fundraising dinners and more. Join us with your own unique celebration to honor the URI in action around the world and share the blessings of life.

For more information or to share your celebration plans, email us at **72hours@uri.org**.

#### **5. Member News**

##### **Healing Practices in the US**

May 2003

The May meeting of the Washington DC CC brought 70 people together to share stories about their healing practices. Different practices described included Johrei, Sufi Healing Order, Reiki, Mayan Spiritual Healing, St. Alban's Healing Ministry, Sacramental Aspect of Healing Ministry, Buddhist Healing Practices, Religious Science healing, and Native American perspectives.

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##### **Teaching Values in Brazil**

May 2003

One of the partners of the Curitiba CC is the Pantheon Program of the

Spiritualist University, coordinated by URI member Karla Miller. In this program, she teaches human values as a discipline in the undergraduate curriculum, and works with elderly and children in deprived rural communities where they provide environmental education, preventive medicine, and other local necessities. Karla's work has been enhanced by the use of **Appreciative Inquiry**.

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### **Caring for Others in Angola, Africa**

April 2003

The Comfort CC of Luanda, Angola visited the Leprosy Center where 51 families, including 103 children, live. CC members offered gifts of clothes, rice, beans and bread, and told them about their work in URI and dialogue among religions. They were at a loss for words to express the happiness with which these suffering people received a group of visitors. They also brought back a list of requests for their next visit—from soccer uniforms for girls to mosquito netting.

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### **Environmental Activism in the US**

April 2003

Spiritual Alliance for Earth (SAFE) CC sponsored its fourth annual Earth Day celebration in the Port of Oakland, California. Featured was an Environmental Fair followed by an interfaith liturgy that began with Native American drummers, singers, and dancers celebrating our sacred connection with the Earth. SAFE is an interfaith ecology movement in the San Francisco Bay Area that builds bridges of communication and cooperation between environmental groups and faith communities, strengthening a commitment to care for creation.

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For more member news visit <http://www.uri.org/regionalnews>

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