



URI eUpdate for February 2003

Our Monthly Electronic Newsletter

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1. Message from Charles Gibbs

At a URI conference in 1999, Nestor Muller, a passionate, deeply committed Roman Catholic from Brazil offered a rule for building respectful community. "If you are in a group of eight, speak once and listen seven times." Over the years, I've been grateful to Nestor again and again for this simple, profound rule.

Read the full letter including perspectives on the looming war by several Global Council members from around the world online at **<http://www.uri.org/abouturi/edrreport/index.asp>**

2. Membership News





URI Participation in the World Social Forum 2003

Porto Alegre, Brazil

by André Porto, Regional Co-Coordinator of Latin America and the Caribbean

In Porto Alegre, Brazil, 100,000 people and 5,717 NGOs met at the World Social Forum from January 23rd – 28th. Participants from 156 countries shared ideas and projects for a possible alternative world. To set the place for religion and spirituality in this envisioned future, the URI, the Interfaith Group of Porto Alegre, and the Ecumenical Coalition collaborated on *Kairos*, a four-day interfaith program. One of the workshops that URI presented was designed to introduce URI to the Forum community. The workshop attracted 30 people who wanted to know more about URI. A leaflet containing organization information and contact information for all CCs in Latin America was distributed. The URI Brazilian community and the workshop participants had a rich and inspiring afternoon.

Read the full report at

<http://www.uri.org/regionalnews/lamerica/porto.asp>

3. Peacebuilding

Middle East Interfaith Dialogue Handbook Project

URI is hosting a new project, led by Prof. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, which will identify the major interfaith initiatives in Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Israel, and Palestine to examine their objectives, nature of activities, philosophy or rationale, obstacles and challenges, and examples of success or impact. *A Handbook for Effective Interfaith Dialogue in the Middle East: Challenges and Stories of Success* will be the end product of this research in late 2003. URI CC members in the Middle East will be assisting with this project, sponsored by the US Institute of Peace.

Read More by Mohammed Abu-Nimer

<http://www.uri.org/regionalnews/mideast/interfaithcontent.asp>

4. Support URI

Donate today! Interfaith cooperation is more important than ever.

Show your commitment to a better and more peaceful future with a financial gift to support the United Religions Initiative's work around the world. Consider making a monthly pledge to provide URI with regular support to help us grow our network of interfaith activists. Or give online right now at the URI website. Our thanks to the hundreds of individuals who help make URI thrive. Join this wonderful group of supporters today.

To donate online, visit

<http://www.uri.org/philanthropy/donateindex.asp>

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