

# INTERACTION

URI's e-newsletter

## OCTOBER 2011 ISSUE

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### URI IN ACTION

#### Interfaith cooperation at work around the world

#### URI Celebrates the 30th Anniversary of Peace Day

In the Gulu District of Uganda “peace” is more than just a vague ideal. For people who suffered 21 years of a brutal civil war, it is something to be honored, celebrated and fiercely protected. So on the International Day of Peace this year, the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative Cooperation Circle and several other CCs joined thousands of people from across the Acholi region for a long weekend of rallies, music, art competitions and a peace walk with Uganda's pre-eminent religious leaders. [Read more](#)



*URI UN Rep. Monica Willard and Deborah Moldow of the URI at the UN CC (left and right) with Mrs. Ban Ki-Moon*

#### URI CC Leads San Francisco's 9-11 Commemoration

More than 15,000 came to Sharon Meadow in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park on Sunday, September 11, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the attacks on New York and Washington D.C. with interfaith prayer and reflection and a performance of Mozart's Requiem by the San Francisco Opera. The event was organized by the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC), a URI Cooperation Circle, in partnership with the Mayor's Office and the San Francisco Opera's Opera in the Park series.

“Demonstrating how the horrific aftermath of 9/11—discrimination, stereotyping, and prejudice in our nation—assisted in making interfaith work a necessity for our future, our city sent a powerful message to its citizens,” wrote Nina Pine and Rachel Finn, Tony Blair Faith Foundation Faith

## DONATE NOW

support local action  
for global peace

Acts Fellows who are being hosted by the SFIC this year. "It is hard to describe what a moving experience it is to see the leaders of many faith traditions stand up and offer prayers together." [Watch SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas's address](#)

### Ramadan: A Season of Giving

For several years now, villagers in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte, Philippines, have celebrated Eid al-Fitr, the Muslim holiday marking the end of Ramadan, interfaith style. In a ritual started by URI's Pakigdait CC, Christians meet Muslims right after prayers at the gate of the Mosque with an offering of red roses, hugs and handshakes - an act of friendship reciprocated by Muslims at Christmastime. This year, Pakigdait partnered with the URI Southeast Asia and the Pacific regional office to hand out 200 pairs of reading glasses to seniors in need as part of the celebration as well, in acknowledgment of the importance of service to both Ramadan—a season of giving as well as prayer and fasting—and to interfaith work.

Pakigdait is one of many URI CCs that use holidays like Ramadan as opportunities to strengthen interreligious exchange and friendship. In Pakistan, for example, Christian students at the ABC4All CC school hosted an Eid party for their Muslim friends, and [in Jordan](#), URI members of different faiths worked together to bring food, gifts and entertainment to poor families and orphans in three villages outside of Amman during Ramadan.



*URI MENA CC celebrates Ramadan in Al Thagrah, one of the poorest areas in Jordan*

Did you know you can channel your gift directly to a URI region? Click [here](#) to donate.

### CAMPAIGN UPDATE

**PLEDGE WITH US**  
to end intolerance,  
one day at a time.



*I decided to take the pledge because  
I want to contribute to the peaceful  
coexistence of religions in the  
community where I live.*

*Alexandre Gonçalves  
Campinas, SP  
Brazil*

Since September 1, when we invited you to join us in ending intolerance in our communities, people in 49 countries have taken the pledge. We've been so inspired by the responses to the "Intolerance ends with me" campaign, we're extending it to November 16, the International Day for Tolerance. [Pledge](#), [take action](#), spread the word. **Intolerance ends with us!**

## PERSPECTIVE

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**The Quest for Peace** by Charles Gibbs, URI Executive Director

"Acknowledging the many causes of division and violence in the world, and the many forces working for peace, justice and healing, I believe there may be no more symbolically important focus at this moment in the quest for peace than the drama unfolding at the UN in response to the Palestinian demand to be recognized as a sovereign state with full rights of participation." [Read more](#)

## YOUTH ROUND-UP

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**Lessons from a Summer at URI** by Jordan Limoges, a 2011 URI Youth Ambassador

"I open my inbox every morning to photos and e-mails from Pakistan, Germany, and Argentina; we hear first-hand accounts of the struggles of women in India and the famine in Somalia. In URI, we are a community, and these people's defeats and triumphs become our own..." [Read the story](#)

Highlights  
at [URI.org](http://URI.org)

[New Resource: Religious Observance Calendar](#)

[URI's Nuclear Wake-up Call now available online](#)

[1000Kalema winners announced](#)

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Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

