



HWPL International Religious Leaders Conference Post-Conference Report

Background The 2nd Annual Commemoration of September 18th World Alliance of Religions' Peace (WARP) Summit marks two years of the establishment of the WARP Offices. With the support from religious leaders all around the world, Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL) has successfully established 181 offices in 90 countries (as of 28 July, 2016) and is continuously expanding its boundaries.

HWPL WARP Offices' Dialogue of Scriptures is a meeting of religious leaders to seek answers to fundamental matters of religion and life based on each religion's respective scriptures.

Following a successful year of scripture-based discussions around the world, WARP Office participants from approximately 47 countries attended this year's conference.

Program September 17, 2016

Schedule Part I: [10:40~12:40] *Religious Leaders Meeting for Solidarity in Truth*
Part II: [17:00~19:00] *Dialogue of Scriptures*

Objective

- Strengthen the solidarity of religious leaders in truth
- Develop an understanding of the religious community's role in peace
- Integrate experiences gained during the 2015 WARP Offices towards future meetings
- Enact a type of dialogue that allows free discourse on the subject of scriptures

Topics of Discussion	1. Importance and Necessity of HWPL's WARP Office Dialogue of Scriptures Meeting 2. Defining Attributes of a Trustworthy Scripture
Format	Part I: Keynote speeches Part II: Panel discussion and Audience Q&A

Overall Outcome

- The importance and need for religions to solidify under a trustworthy scripture was realized.
- The need for religious leaders to engage in discussions to establish standards to help people of all faiths entrust their hopes in the scripture was agreed upon by the six panelists and audience members from PART II: Dialogue of Scriptures.
- "Prophecy and fulfillment" was agreed upon by six religious leaders as a defining attribute that helps validate a scripture to be trustworthy and true.
- Religious leaders' committed to help HWPL find a scripture with a unifying truth to bring an alliance of religions.
- Wars and conflicts on all levels can only truly come to an end when religious disputes cease to exist, and religions come to an alliance in solidarity under a unifying truth.

Part I : Religious Leaders Meeting for Solidarity in Truth

The Most Revd. Martin de Jesús Barahona Pascacio

“Fulfillment of the WARP Peace Agreement through HWPL WARP Offices’ Search for a Trustworthy Scripture”

Ven. Dr. Itthapana Dhammalankara Thero

“Religious Leaders’ Role in the Search for a Solution to Death and War”

Speakers

Prof. Said Aquil Siroj

“Religious Leaders’ Solidarity in Truth, The Road to World Peace and Cessation of War”

Priest Nikhil Chandra Narayanbhai Trivedi

“Defining Attributes of a Trustworthy Scripture”

Audience

173 religious leaders from 48 countries and 16 religions

Excerpts of Keynote Speeches

“We committed seriously to promote and publicize this peace agreement with the promise of fulfilling everything that we have signed, I can say with much confidence that in El Salvador we have made the necessary efforts and we have promoted the Office of Alliance of Religions for Peace and we have developed this dialogue to different expressions of faith.”

“I want to share with you guys as well that in El Salvador we have promoted the Office of Alliance of religions for peace, where we have developed different forums, where different religious leaders have expressed that their churches mean peace and sometimes we cannot deny it and that it has awoken some debates but through this dialogue and the comprehension that we have arrived to understandings in where we are convinced that we are all sons and daughters of the same God, the generous God that gave us rain for all his children and the warmth of the sun and all the goodness of nature, we cannot be in war anymore, we are all called to give the testimony of peace and promote the unity between all the religions.”

The Most Revd. Martin de Jesús Barahona Pascacio

“Our duty is to serve the all living beings as human beings. Ultimate solution to war is kindness.”

“Although peace is the primary objective of all religions, we see in our history wars created ugly patches on the face of the religion. People fought with each other due to religious beliefs and they killed their fellow humans in the name of their religion.”

“Also, religious leaders may participate in WARP Office meetings and they can discuss the peaceful teachings mentioned in their own religious scriptures. That will be a way for the religious harmony and to awake the mind of peace and compassion.”

Ven. Dr. Itthapana Dhammalankara Thero

“If there is any conflict it should be resolved through dialogue. This is indeed Alghoyatul Khuswah, the main purpose of religion being brought down to earth.”

“The prophet once said ‘Truly, I was not sent to this world except to perfect or improve the character, culture, morality and attitude of mankind’. Even in the Koran it says: ‘If it had been your Lord's will, they would all have believed- all who are on earth! Will you then compel mankind, against their will, to believe?!’ So we must never commit violence in the name of religion: “There is no compulsion in religion”. This means that there is no violence in religion. Whenever there is violence, there is no religion there. Everything must be settled by way of dialogue and negotiation, not with guns, pistols, swords and batons.”

Prof. Said Aquil Siroj

“As I attended the WARP Office meetings, I saw that there are many religious scriptures and texts that create divisions within the religious world, but they need to come together under a trustworthy scripture that can be understood.

Through the World Alliance of Religions’ Peace Offices, I was able to see how prophecy and fulfillment is an essential element in the scripture. It is said that God uses prophecy and fulfillment to make certain that people can see and believe in his works at the time the prophecies are fulfilled, in a concrete way. Therefore, we can see that the scripture can be validated by the actual events of the fulfillment of the words that were spoken hundreds and thousands of years before they came to pass.”

Priest Nikhil Chandra Narayanbhai Trivedi

Part II : Dialogue of Scriptures

Moderator **Dr. Daniel Voijsa**
HWPL Religious Studies Specialist

Father Abraam Nagy
Priest of the St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria

The Rt Rev Peter Gatbel Kunen Lual
Bishop of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan- The Greater Upper Nile
Nasir Anglican Diocese

Professor Dawud Olatokunbo Shittu Noibi
Executive Secretary for the Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria

Panelists

Mr. Deva Kaji Shakya
President of the Nepal Chapter of Buddha's Light International
Association (BLIA)

Rev. Acharya Prem Shakanarand Tirth
High Hindu Priest of Shree Geeta Ashram of Dehli

Ambassador Satpal Singh
Ambassador of the Sikh Religion of the Western Hemisphere

Audience 147 members of the HWPL WARP Office Dialogue of Scriptures Meetings
from 48 countries and 16 religions.

Topics of Discussion

1. Importance of the Religious Community to Search for a Trustworthy Scripture and its Qualities
2. Requirements that Define a Trustworthy Scripture
3. Necessity of Prophecy and Fulfillment within a Trustworthy Scripture

Discussion Results

- Standards that help verify a scripture to be trustworthy and true is an important matter that religious leaders need to discuss at the HWPL WARP Office meetings.
- Prophecy and fulfillment is one aspect that can be used to help verify the validity of a scripture to have come from God.
- HWPL WARP Office Dialogue of Scriptures and its participating members will continuously work to find a trustworthy Scripture to bring an alliance of religions under a unifying truth.

Excerpts of Panelists' Answers *"As the scriptures are bearing the message of God and values for human beings, teaching them how to carry them all out and encouraging them to do so, we should be sure of the verification of these scriptures and that they are trustworthy. Therefore the research for the verification of these scriptures*

guarantees their believers peace and comfort particularly when obeying the word of God."

"There is no doubt, that all prophetic messages in the Holy Bible and its occurrences after many years of being told is what supports the idea of the Holy Bible being inspired by God who knows the future with all its preferences and secrets. That is why we believe that the prophecies have been achieved so we believe and trust also the verses which talk about achieving peace all over the world in the future will be fulfilled."

Father Abraam Nagy

"There are more than 500,000 religions in the world. And that 80% of the wars are caused by religious conflict. Amongst the various reasons for war, religious wars are most brutal, because those participating in them do not fear death, for the sake of their religion. There is no religion teaching war. If all religions teach love and peace, why are so many wars caused by religions? How can we bring about peace? We need to continue our dialogues about religions and the scriptures, so that we can improve our understanding of religion and the teachings. We need to unite and become one, together we can find which scripture is trustworthy."

"At our WARP Office in Australia an audience asked 'How can we believe that the Bible is God's words?' That was a really important question. I am sure that other religious members will have the same questions. The answer is that there must be prophecy and fulfilment in the trustworthy scriptures. To be a trustworthy religious leader, we must keep our word and our promises."

The Rt Rev Peter Gatbel Kunen Lual

"It is only a trustworthy religious Scripture that deserves our confidence in its contents as source of authentic information about the Supreme Being, His purpose for creating human beings on earth (Q 51:56) and how to fulfill that purpose on earth. Therefore, the most important concern of human beings should be to ensure that the Scripture they follow FULLY conveys authentic information about these facts. It is important that human beings identify the qualities of an authentic and trustworthy Scripture, and thus ensure that we follow ONLY true guidance from God."

Professor Dawud Olatokunbo Shittu Noibi

"We need to have knowledge and clear understanding of main principles or tenets underlying the religious faiths. The scriptures should be able to define and explain them clearly, so that the followers will not be confused and they will not deviate from what the great teachers or pioneers have taught.

Trustworthy religious scriptures transcend communal, sectorial, regional, tribal, geographical, political, and cultural or any type of barrier that hinder moral integrity, religious spirit and discipline."

Mr. Deva Kaji Shakya

"All creation of God should be united and harmonized.

When we follow our human nature, we will be able to make heavenly culture. What is human nature? Just like water, the nature of water is to quench thirst, the nature of fire is to burn, same way the nature of humans is love. God loves us unconditionally and if we are praying to God and we believe that we are from God, so our religion is a religion of God, which is love. In order to have human nature we need to search our scripture."

"It is important to search for a trustworthy scripture and its qualities to build the heavenly culture on this earth."

Rev. Acharya Prem Shakanarand Tirth

"Because God is trustworthy, if the holy scripture is not trustworthy, how will people have faith in that. The scripture should be ethical, moral, fruitful, virtuous, and connect one with the divine path. It should be incorruptible. There is a lot of corruption we see in religions and within scriptures, that is why we see so much division in one religion, which has so many different factions."

"All holy scriptures are direct knowledge and teachings from God. God is revealing to us the events that have happened, are happening and will happen in the future. That makes prophecy and fulfilment an important part of the holy scripture. That is proving God's existence and God's presence."

Ambassador Satpal Singh
