

*F*rcing Change

Bridging Politics and Religion for Global Unification

by Carl Teichrib



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There is a specific “independent religion” literally seeking to create a new world civilization, both spiritually and politically. It could even be said that world government is their spiritual mandate.

To the casual outside observer looking in, this bold directive may appear preposterous. After all, this particular religion is not numerically large. Nor does it thrust itself on the public consciousness; especially when one compares it to the international political clout of Roman Catholicism, the massive media attention Islam receives in the world press, or the perceived role of evangelical Christianity in US national affairs. In fact, for all intent and purposes, this religion remains largely unknown to the general population of North America, and, arguably, much of the rest of the world.

Yet as unfamiliar as this religion may be to the average person, its involvement in the realm of global governance is undeniable, with a track record at the United Nations going back to the UN’s birth. Even so, political commentators and researchers alike have routinely overlooked this body of believers. In fact, if it hadn’t been for my attendance at one particular UN event, I too would have completely overlooked this international player.

In the spring of 2000, I had the opportunity of participating in the United Nations Millennium Forum. It was during this weeklong event that I recognized the importance of this spiritual-political entity, and the only reason I did notice was because of its visible activity during the conference.

Articles to Watch for in Upcoming Issues of *Forcing Change*

- Earth Day: A Radical Religious Agenda
- Utopian Politics: International Socialism and the Rise of Global Governance
- Cult of Green: The UN Earth Sabbath
- Fundamental Fears: Biblical Christianity as a Factor in Global Instability

At first I thought it was rather odd that a relatively minor religious group would be so involved at such an important event. I could understand why the Franciscans International, a Roman Catholic organization, would hold the key positions it did, including having one of its members fill the role of Executive Secretary. After all, regardless of what one thinks about Roman Catholicism, there is no denying the part this powerful institution plays in world affairs. But the Bahá’ís?

The significance of the Bahá’í religion as a leader in global advancement dawned on me when Techeste Ahderom, the principle representative of the Bahá’í International Community (BIC) to the United Nations, gave his opening speech as the Millennium Forum’s Co-chair. True, in the past I had seen the Bahá’ís at World Federalist events and various interfaith gatherings, but in these in-



“The Shrine of the Bab in Haifa, Israel”

stances the Bahá’í representatives were just part of the background noise – like so many other attendees. But with Ahderom at the helm of the UN Millennium Forum, and the BIC providing media and communications outreach, database management, and direct administrative support to the Forum’s Executive Committee, it forced me to ask a simple but important question: why the Bahá’ís?

Bahá’í Global Context

As far as religions go the Bahá’í faith is relatively young, emanating from the teachings of its founder, Bahá’u’lláh, who lived from 1817 to 1892. Started in Iran, the matrix of the Bahá’í Faith was primarily Islamic,¹ and most of its early supporters stemmed from Muslim communities,

with a smaller mix of Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrian involvement.

Like the monotheistic faiths, Bahá’ís believe that “God is one.” However, the Bahá’í faith claims that God “manifests His will to humanity” through a series of messengers. Accordingly, “Bahá’ís believe that Abraham, Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Krishna, Jesus, and Muhammad are all equally authentic messengers of one God.”² Furthermore, each of these religious figures and their various messages are viewed as legitimate paths to salvation and are part of a larger plan to advance civilization.

This idea of propelling society is integral to the Bahá’í faith. According to their official website, the Bahá’ís “central theme...is that humanity is one single race and that the day has come for its unification in one global society.”³ This message

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of unification is clearly stated throughout Bahá'í writings.

One such text, *Bahá'í Teachings For The New World Order*, released by the US National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís, lists some of their key principles,

- "The oneness of mankind."
- "Universal peace upheld by a world government."
- "The common foundation of all religions."
- "Universal compulsory education."
- And, "a spiritual solution to economic problems."

John Ferraby, author of the Bahá'í reference *All Things Made New*, stakes some equally significant claims,

"The unity which exists among Bahá'ís resembles, but is stronger than, that of the early Christians and the early Muslims; for the elements united are more diverse. We live in a peerless age when, for the first time in the history of the human race, mankind can be recognized as one. According to Bahá'u'lláh,

the Divine Plan of Creation requires the process of unification to culminate at this stage in human history; all that has gone before has been leading to the present age, in which the oneness of mankind is to be realised in world unity... We have entered a new era, in which the unification of mankind can be adequately organized only by a world state... God has released through Bahá'u'lláh the forces necessary to unite mankind... Accordingly, the spirit of unity released by Bahá'u'lláh is more intense than any released in former ages. Its first fruits are visible in the Bahá'í Community today; tomorrow its spiritual power will overwhelm mankind."⁴

This explains why Bahá'í representatives have been involved within the global community for decades: *world government is their spiritual mandate*. Obviously, the Bahá'í Community has been a participant for global change far beyond what I had witnessed at the UN Millennium Forum. Consider this brief backgrounder from the BIC,

"The Bahá'í International Community has a long history of involvement with international organizations. At League of Nations headquarters in Geneva, an International Bahá'í Bureau, established in 1926, served as a base for Bahá'ís participating in League activities. In 1945 when the UN Charter was signed in San Francisco, Bahá'í representatives were present. In 1948 the Bahá'í International Community registered with the UN as an international non-governmental organization (NGO) and in 1970 was granted consultative status (now called "special" consultative status) with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Consultative status with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) followed in 1976, and with the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in 1989. Working relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) were also established

in 1989. Over the years, the Community has worked closely with the UN Environment Program (UNEP), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the UN Development Program (UNDP).”⁵

During the last number of years, the BIC was a participant at the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Millennium World Peace Summit, the UN World Conference Against Racism, the UN Special Session on Children, and at the World Summit on the Information Society, along with many other international events. And

in Turin, Italy, the home of the United Nations International Labour Organization, a special relationship has developed between the ILO and the European Bahá’í Business Forum (EBBF). The purpose: to apply “spiritual principles to economic problems.”

This European aspect is important, giving not just a global but also a regional framework for social change. Hence, the European Commission has partnered with the EBBF, and in 2002 EBBF member Giuseppe Robiati was awarded the Chair for a New World Order at the University of Bari, Italy. Furthermore, the European Parliament “hosted a special exhibition highlighting the contribution that Bahá’í communities in Europe have



“Bahá’í Universal House of Justice, Haifa, Israel”

made to promote social harmony.”⁶

But it’s the Middle East, and Israel particularly, that the Bahá’í religion is especially focused on.

World Headquarters

At Mount Carmel in Haifa, the location where the prophet Elijah had his showdown with the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18), an elaborate 19 step succession of terraced gardens forms a nearly one kilometer swath up the north side of the Mount. In the center of this lavish setting sits the Shrine of the Báb – a golden domed mausoleum structure containing the remains of the Báb, the spiritual forerunner to Bahá’u’lláh.

Apparently, one year before his death, Bahá’u’lláh traveled to Mount Carmel where he “designated Mount Carmel as the site for the world headquarters of His Faith.”⁷ Consequently, since the mid-1950s, Haifa has become the central location for the Bahá’ís global unification work.

Presently, the Mount Carmel location houses a number of massive Bahá’í administrative structures, including the International Archives building and the International Teaching Center. Also at this location is the Center for the Study of the Texts, a facility housing sacred documents and acting as an institution of study for scholars. All of these establishments work hand-in-glove with the Seat of the Universal House of Justice, the “supreme institution” and governance body of the Bahá’í community. But the House of Justice and its supporting institutions are concerned with more than just the Bahá’í Faith.

In an article in *One Country*, the official publication of the Bahá’í International Community, Douglas Samimi-Moore, director of the organization’s Office of Public Information, explained the deeper significance behind this Mount Carmel complex,

“Our scriptures tell us that the very construction of these facilities for housing these

institutions will coincide with several other processes in the world. One of these processes is the maturation of local and national Bahá’í institutions. The other is the establishment of processes leading to political peace for humanity...”⁸

Emphasizing this global unification of politics and religion, Samimi-Moore restated this central theme by adding that the “Bahá’ís have gone about building these structures from a spiritual motivation... They believe these new structures will contribute to the unification of the planet.”⁹

The avowed goal of the Bahá’í faith, a spiritual mandate to create world government, amply demonstrates the reason why this little known religion is so willing to entrench itself within the international community. The implications are extraordinary.

Think about it: a lavish international headquarters complex – including a Universal House of Justice – located at Mount Carmel, all with special ties to the United Nations, and a religiously ingrained interfaith agenda centered on global unification. But there’s one final part to this picture.

John Ferraby, who served as a Secretary to the Bahá’í National Spiritual Assembly, provides a compelling reason for his faith’s intense desire to see a world government and world religious system come to fruition. It’s imperative to the Bahá’í vision of world order: “...before the appearance of the next Manifestation of God, His New World Order will be formed.”¹⁰

It’s the Bahá’í version of “build it and he will come.” **FC**

Endnotes:

¹ *Historical Context of the Bábí and Bahá’í Faiths*, <http://info.bahai.org/babi-and-bahai.html>.

² Ibid.

³ *The Bahá’í Faith*, <http://info.bahai.org/index.html>.

⁴ John Ferraby, *All Things Made New* (Bahá’í Publishing Trust, 1975), pp.77-78.

⁵ Bahá'í International Community: *History of Active Cooperation with the United Nations*, <http://statements.bahai.org/00-0606.htm>.

⁶ BIC, "Exhibition at European Parliament tells the story of Bahá'í contribution to social harmony," *One Country*, April/June 2003, p.14.

⁷ BIC, "The Bahá'í Faith and its connection to Israel," *One Country*, July/September 2000, p.15.

⁸ BIC, "Reshaping 'God's holy mountain' to create a vision of peace and beauty for all humanity," *One Country*, July/September 2000, p.11.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ John Ferraby, p.304.

Educating For Global Citizenship

By Carl Teichrib

Note: Although this article was written and published in 1997, the information it contains is vital to understanding the philosophical mind-set of social change education. It has been briefly edited for flow, and contains an added paragraph with extra detail on Muller and Bailey. Furthermore, unless otherwise noted, all quotes and information are the result of the author's eyewitness experiences and audio tapings.

"Welcome...Global Citizens!"

With these words Dr. Desmond Berghofer, author and Chairman of the International Foundation of Learning, officially opened the *Global Citizenship 2000 Youth Congress*. From April 4-6, 1997, at the one-thousandth day before the year 2000, the Vancouver Public Library in British Columbia, Canada, became the "visioneering" epicentre of the world. We had gathered to make global history.

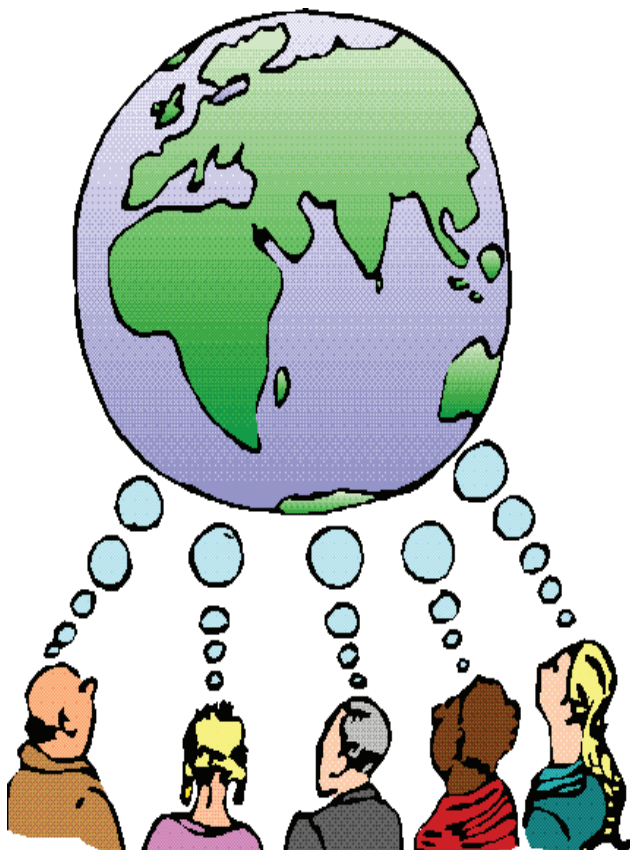
Friday evening, April 4th, educators, community leaders, and approximately 150 children congregated in the Library Concourse to celebrate

Global Citizenship. This was no ordinary gathering. Philip Owen, Mayor of Vancouver – unable to attend – passed along his support to the Congress. The children, students from British Columbia's lower mainland, marched in carrying banners with themes of Global Citizenship. Opening the event, Edith Wallace, a gifted Canadian performer, sang about the "fire within" and our planetary home. But it wasn't a Canadian who stole the show. In the words of organizer Dr. Geraldine Schwartz, the man to inspire the Congress was a "planet elder," Dr. Robert Muller.

For long-time United Nations observers, Robert Muller is a familiar name. In 1948 he won a UN internship by writing an essay on how to govern the world. Over the decades he eventually rose to the position of Assistant-Secretary-General, and directly served under three Secretary Generals. Moreover, he was personally involved in creating eleven of the UN's specialized agencies, and over the years he became known as the "Prophet of Hope" at the world body.

Although he retired in 1986, he has remained active on a number of fronts, primarily in global citizenship and education initiatives. One of his accomplishments is the drafting of a *World Core Curriculum*, which is more of a philosophy of education than a curriculum per se. In fact, his *World Core Curriculum* has been adopted into a network of institutions known as the Robert Muller Schools, which specifically use Muller's world views as the school's guiding principles. Added to this is the fact that in 1989 his *World Core Curriculum* earned him a UNESCO Peace Education Prize, and since then he has championed his education agenda far and wide.

This is what I had come to Vancouver for, to witness the birth of a new era in education: "Education for Global Citizenship." According to the organizers this was an historic event, a time of planning and commitment, a time to celebrate the dawning of a New Age in Canadian education and culture. As one Global Citizenship 2000 Youth Congress document asserted, this event, held 1000



“Global Citizens: Earth-centric Thinking”

Visioneering the Future

To understand what happened in Vancouver it's important to know what visioneering is. Based on Dr. Berghofer's book, *The Visioneers*, it's a concept of elevating global transformation by developing a new set of core values at both the grass-roots and leadership levels. Then, when enough of the planet's citizens have embraced this new way of thinking, massive global revolution ensues. This radical change causes political systems and religions to unite, all with an emphasis on harmonizing humanity with a spiritually charged planet Earth.

Personalizing the process, Berghofer explained this as “going out in your mind to explore the future and shape it to your liking – to shape it so well that you feel yourself moving comfortably into it.”² Visioning “embraces faculties of mind little used in the past, but ready to be developed when we choose to do so.”³

This was our task; to use both Muller's *World Core Curriculum* and Berghofer's visioning ideas in carrying forward Global Citizenship. Just how far were we to take this? Berghofer writes,

“The big truth...is that people can choose to become connected through their minds to the energy of universal creative intelligence. If enough do so, they can set in motion a wave of creative initiative to usher in an era of unprecedented harmony and collaboration worldwide.”⁴

Visioneering “energy” was the lifeblood of the Congress. Schwartz and Berghofer referred to this energy often, both on and off the stage.

While visioneering may have been a new concept to those attending the Congress, it's an idea with a long history. Throughout the Congress and within the writings of Berghofer, a cord of old was shaping the new. Alice A. Bailey, one of Muller's life inspirers,⁵ appears to have influenced Berghofer as well.

days before the year 2000, was meant to,

“...launch a project to encourage our youth to see themselves as global citizens...promoting global education in the curriculum of our schools, and to celebrate the common energy...The central idea of the Congress is that young people be brought together as teams of creative energy, working with their teachers and community leaders to show how and what we all must learn to become global citizens in the 21st century.”¹

After Friday's opening ceremonies it was clear that Robert Muller's task was to energize and move us towards a major task. The next day, we were told, would be a day of exploration and excitement, for we would all be embarking on a journey of “global visioneering.”

Typically unheard of in general public circles, Alice Bailey lived from 1880 to 1949. During that time she embraced the esoteric ideas of Theosophy and embarked on a path to occult enlightenment. As a writer, her occult texts have been instrumental in today's New Age Movement, and her organization, Lucis Trust, has been a long-time affiliate of the United Nations.

In Bailey's occult classic, *The Rays and The Initiations: A Treatise on the Seven Rays*, she explained that the "Art of Visualisation" allows expressions of human consciousness to become possible.⁶ She gives three areas that this new type of thinking, or "visualization," manifests itself,

1. Through "the development of the sense of vision" a new world occult spirituality will "be definitely seen".
2. "Groups, large wholes and major syntheses will also be visualised, and this will lead to definite expansion of consciousness. Thus the *sense of synthesis* will be unfolded."
3. "All creative art will be fostered by this training (visualisation), and the new art of the future...will be rapidly developed as the training proceeds." According to Bailey, this is a direct result of the unfoldment of visualisation.⁷ [Italics in original]

On Saturday, April 5, the *Global Citizenship 2000 Youth Congress* demonstrated Bailey's philosophies. Muller's *World Core Curriculum*, Berghofer's visioners, and Bailey's occult concepts fit like a glove.

Indoctrinating Children

On Saturday the children – some as young as six – along with educators and leaders, were given the task of visioning for a new world. Each school constituted a visioning team with the purpose

of deciding what was necessary for Global Citizenship.

Before this task was undertaken, Dr. Schwartz explained the importance of using our minds in a way meant to expand consciousness,

"Our minds, our consciousness has got to be equal to the task of the future... This is the most important thing that I want you to understand today; that a quality future comes from your mind, from your consciousness, from your heart and from your spirit, from your understanding."

She continued, "We are Global Citizens in a planet that has no true borders and we have to understand the nature and truth of that." In keeping with the theme of visioning, Schwartz emphasized the proper vision/value context.

"All around the world there are actions that are not right and we have to learn to judge the right action, and when we have decided in our truth, in our heart, that we know what is right, we need to share that with others... when we in community have understood what is right action, then we need to have the most important human quality. The courage to act... and even more than the courage to act in the present, to dream big dreams and to create visions for the future so that we are always visioning...to plan, to vision, to share what you might do to make a contribution to the great millennium."

Winding down, Schwartz told the students to proudly bare their *Global Citizenship 2000 Passports* included in the Congress's information package. Earlier that day, everyone received passports symbolic of their allegiance to Planet Earth, which included Robert Muller's poem, "*Decide to be a Global Citizen*." [See sidebar].

But before our visioning could commence,

Dr. Robert Muller added his foundational philosophies for proper Citizenship.

Muller's Convincing Emotional Appeal

Introduced as a “planet elder,” Muller related how the Earth was overpopulated, how our present lifestyles and values needed to change, and how it was up to the generation present at the Congress to force the world to embrace “Mother Earth”.

On population, Muller boasted that the United Nations had, as a result of warnings to the world, “prevented the birth of 2 billion, 200 million people.” He also encouraged the Congress; “Try to convince your people to *reduce the number of children*. This is one of the *biggest problems* we have on this planet.” [Italics added]

Next, Muller laid out a lengthy scenario of unimaginable environmental destruction. He did this in a unique way by holding a hypothetical dialogue between himself and Mother Earth. This emotional appeal had a staggering effect on the participants,

“What are you doing to me? How do you think I can continue to have good oxygen for you? How do you think I’m going to have enough water for you? You are killing me! And in certain projections which have been made by scientists now, some of them say that this Earth will become lifeless and uninhabitable within the next fifty years. So do not forget: That if we continue to live and to waste, and to do all the wrong things which we do today, by your age, maybe this planet will be finished. Never forget this, so that the future of this planet is totally in your hands... this is what you have to be taught by your teachers. This is an absolute fundamental knowledge which you must be taught. And remember that when you do something wrong, multiplied by 5.8 billion, this is an

incredible quantity of wrong.” Muller continued,

“Now **this is why you are here sitting in this room**, the generation on which the future life on this planet will depend. Either you **change your values**, or you don’t. If you continue consuming as you do and throwing things away, **you will be the responsible generation of having to put an end to all life on this planet**. And if you change, **if you consider the Earth as being number one, your Mother, then it will change.**” [Bold print for emphasis]



“The UN’s Prophet of Hope, Dr. Robert Muller”

This is the new education. On impressionable children, this guilt-induced brainwashing had its desired effect. During the question and answer

period, one young girl, fighting tears, explained how we humans “exterminated” animals for our own use.

Children were not the only ones affected. A young mother asked Muller what her family’s optimum size should be. Muller told her two, one to replace yourself, one to replace your partner. After this a visibly shaken middle-aged mother expressed her gratitude to Muller, “I have brought five children into this world [at this point she was fight tears] and I’m so moved by what you said. I’ve been asleep, my family’s been asleep.”

Later that evening I had a chance to talk to a high school student who was obviously bored during the day. Her parents had dropped her off in the morning, and she didn’t want to be there. We had coffee in the Library Concourse where she explained her belief that the Congress was an exercise in “brainwashing”. Twenty minutes later her parents showed up and asked if she wanted to stay for the rest of the evening. Her response was telling, “I want to leave before they convince me not to have my five children.”

Muller’s last comments before our time of group visioning revealed the heart of the man. He explained to the Congress how fundamental religions, those religions that “have the total truth,” missed the real point of Jesus and other religious “emissaries.” Muller explained,

“...the truth that was given by Jesus, by Mohammed, by these emissaries from outer space, they were really basic truths. And they were so great that the cosmos almost incarnated itself. This is why Jesus said, ‘I am the incarnation of the divine.’ And the Indigenous people, they called it Great Spirit. So there was always this fighting to get the message from the outer universe to give us confidence and to tell us how to behave. This is why practically all the religions have a great contribution to make to the mystery of life...The only trouble is that their followers, the disciples...created around these spiritual messages, a religion.”

Note: This poem by Dr. Robert Muller was printed in the Global Citizenship 2000 Youth Congress passport.

Decide to be a global citizen

A good inhabitant of planet Earth
A member of the great human family
Pray, think, act, feel and love globally
And you will aggrandize yourself
to the outer limits of being

Know this planet
Love this planet
Care for this planet
For you come from Mother Earth
You are made of her elements
You are the Earth, become conscious
of herself.
You are her eyes, her ears, her voice,
her mind and her heart

Save your Mother Earth
from her matricidal children
who destroy her
who divide her
who spike her with Nuclear arms
who hold their territories to be
greater than the globe
and their groups
greater than humanity

Unite, global citizens, to save and heal
planet Earth
And to make our Mother bloom again
As the most beautiful planet
in the universe.

Explaining further, he revealed how through his inspiration a new organization was taking shape: The United Religions – a blend of Earth centred “basic truths.” [Note: the organization Muller was referring to was the United Religions Initiative, which signed its Global Charter in 2000]. What basic truths does Muller ascribe to? He told these Canadian school children,

“...behave correctly towards the Earth... You are not children of Canada, you are really living units of the cosmos because the Earth is a cosmic phenomena...we are all cosmic units. This is why religions tell you, you are divine. We are divine energy...it is in your hands whether evolution on this planet continues or not.”

While detailing the plans for a United Religions, Muller expanded his vision of a United World. He told us that the United Nations needed to be “tremendously strengthened” or that a “United States of the World” should be modeled after the European Union. Among the ideas Muller presented for a United World included his support for the World Federalists, world regionalism and continental units blending into a World Union, and “organizing this planet according to biology.” NAFTA [as a regionally organizing process], Muller explained, was a positive development towards a regionalized World Union.

All of this was told to the Congress in order to prepare these children for proper visioning.

Mind Mapping

After Dr. Muller’s inspiring message, each school group was given an assigned space to “mind map” and develop “Millennium Projects”. This was the theory and practice of common visioning, and the entire Saturday afternoon was devoted to it.

Mind mapping, as was demonstrated at the Congress, is a technique developed for group

learning. The idea is to use mind mapping as a predetermined and synthesized thinking method to establish consensus. No criticizing the main idea; rather, you must overcome as a group any “valid concerns” and continue on towards the central goal. The goal for each group; to visioneer as a team of creative energy in shaping how you wanted the to transform the Earth - Global Citizenship was the aim.

Towards the end of the afternoon, each team reported their visioning to the Congress. These visions were to be the school’s plans, or “Millennium Projects.” Some were elaborate and required lobbying efforts and capital. For example, the Vancouver Learning Centre proposed a kids United Nations; a Global Citizenship theme park where people would be taught about environmental destruction through imagination; developing and lobbying for fundamental recognition of Global Citizenship education; and advocacy for a cashless monetary system. The essential idea was that an individual’s documented environmental stewardship would be the basis for a person’s economic security.

The team from the Earl Marriott Secondary School presented a drama displaying the philosophy of Global Citizenship. In this drama, a young female student sat on top of a desk, held pine boughs aloft and proclaimed herself “Mother Earth.” Encircling her, other female students took turns laying hands on Mother Earth while individually confessing their environmental sins. In turn, Mother Earth would forgive each student, and the girls committed themselves to change their destructive behavior.

The predominant Millennium Projects were school-formed Global Citizenship clubs. Other schools with existing clubs declared their continued service to Earth through deeper global education and peer leadership.

The World Core Curriculum

Because I came as an independent observer, Dr. Schwartz placed me with the Simon Fraser University (SFU) Student Teachers, a leading institution in British Columbia. The Millennium Project that Simon Fraser committed to was implementing *World Core Curriculum* philosophies in the public education system. Some of the student teachers admitted that this wasn't learning in the traditional sense, but rather values and behavior modification. It was education for creating environmental activists, a position viewed as a positive educational step.

One SFU student teacher proclaimed, "With us being here, they are planting a seed in us." Another student teacher explained that Muller's *World Core Curriculum* is "what we're trying to get to."

A very interesting dialogue between two student teachers showed how subversive this thinking is. One of the team members asked, "How do we deal with parental pessimism?" It was explained that if a child's values could be altered, eventually parental persuasion could be shifted.

The basic idea of SFU student teachers was to push for compulsory *World Core Curriculum* education with the focus being on sustaining the "creative energy" of Global Citizenship. As one SFU team member commented, "Make it a virus – no inoculation – infect everyone."

Pantheism 101

The Congress ended on Saturday evening with a grand "Festival of Lights." Students were given flashlights and led at the appropriate time into the darkened Library Concourse to a rousing marching tune. Berghofer explained this was symbolic "because light is the primary energy of the universe." He went on, "we are dedicating ourselves to act, to use the energy of our historic 1000 days to further our cooperation and visioning work."

In thanking Robert Muller and the behind-the-scenes organizers, Dr. Schwartz presented solid marble "spirit birds." Each spirit bird was carved out of a single slab of "the finest marble in the world," from "the very same place that Michelangelo got his stone to make David." We were told the birds represented the freedom to act and serve as "partners of light, partners of celebration."

Before midnight, the beginning of the one-thousandth day, a drama was presented in which the elephant headed, six-armed Hindu deity Ganesa made an appearance. The Cultural Metaphors Theatre Workshop professionally dressed a young woman in a Ganesa costume and explained to the children the powers of Ganesa.

"I have been around for thousands and thousands of years. And you can call on me anytime to remove your thoughts of any obstacles. If you should ever worry or anguish... or if life gets you down... whisper an AUM ...call on loving Ganesa who always is there, for Ganesa is none other than you."⁸

Support for Global Change

The Global Citizenship Youth Congress was a publicly supported initiative: primarily through tax dollars. Funding support for the event came through the Canadian Federal Government via the Minister of Environment. And for any team wishing to receive capital for their Millennium Projects, Environment Canada had a booth set up with Federal application forms to fund the projects.

Although the Youth Congress was chiefly aimed at changing Canada's educational focus, the results of the event were to have a larger impact. On Saturday afternoon, Muller proposed that copies of the Congress's work should go,

"...to the mayor of your city, to the Minister of Environment in Canada, to the World Environment Program in Nairobi, to your parliamentarians who represent you in par-

liament so that they will get an example of what young people are thinking and what they are ready to do. I have a whole list which I will give to Desmond. For example, yes I have UNICEF...the Secretary General of the United Nations, the UN Earth Council in Costa Rica, so that in order to create a movement that other schools will do what you have begun to do here...very practical proposals...communicate them to other authorities, to other schools, to UNESCO...a world program of asking other schools around to do this thinking; 'What do you propose to save the environment of this world?' And you will be the first example given by UNESCO of how to (do it). So this is very, very important what you have done today."

Serving as a UNESCO model of proper global citizenship, the Vancouver Congress opened the doors for similar events by youth and educators. Just as importantly, it added to the weight of global citizenship education as dreamed of by world change visioners. **FC**

Additional Quotes by Dr. Robert Muller As taken from the Global Citizenship 2000 Youth Congress

"You must remember the Earth. I would even say that the word 'global education' and the word 'global citizens'...I'm almost tempted to change the words and to replace them by 'Earth education' and by 'Earth citizen'...we are children of the Sun and we are children of the Earth."

"...you can be the caretakers and the saviors of the world...everyday remember your Mother Earth...Do not forget it that from now on you have to be Earth citizens, you have to be the children of Mother Earth."

"I have requested that when I die, I do not want to be burned. I do not want to be put in a casket. I want to be put straight into the Earth, so that the Earth can re-absorb me and then I can live again as the form of a tree, or in the form of insects or worms. This...will be my contribution when I am dead...It is my fundamental right to live again in another form!"

"Let me tell you, that when you have an idea which you consider fundamental and good for humanity, sooner or later you can implement it.

So I was invited to the World Parliament of Religions. And I made a speech there which was so well received by all the participants that the idea of creating a United Religions like the United Nations was promoted during the World Parliament of Religions. And then during the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations in San Francisco, we launched again the idea of United Religions and at the end of June there would be a meeting of 200 people from various religions in San Francisco to draft and to give birth, in San Francisco, to a United Religions...I almost cannot believe it that they listened to me! I will be the father of the United Religions!

But I never gave up...It took 30 years. To create a United Europe took 46 years. To get the United States together took 10 years. And to get the world together and abolish the passports might take also 10 or 20 years. In these ideas I have six fundamental ways of getting to a United World...I'm going to work with each of them...I am asking now that either the United Nations would be tremendously strengthened, or...create a United States of the World...Or let us take the European Union now, as a model which is better than the United Nations, for a United World. Or let us take all the World Federalists together to create a World Federation. Or let us create regional continental units...the European Union, an American Union, which I've been pushing too, and this is how you got the trade agreement between the U.S. and Canada. And then we'll take the five

continents, and the five continents, if they're united, will create a World Union. That's another one... The latest and most important one is that we should organize this planet according to biology."

Endnotes:

¹ *Education for Global Citizenship: Global Citizenship 2000 Youth Congress Call for Leadership*, p. 1.

² Desmond E. Berghofer, *The Visioneers*, Creative Learning International Press, Vancouver, Canada, 1992, p. 10.

³ Ibid. p. 10.

⁴ Ibid. p. 72.

⁵ *Hope For The World Update*, Spring 1997, page 6, "Alice Bailey and Djwhal Khul."

⁶ Alice A. Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiation: A Treatise on the Seven Rays*, Lucis Publishing Company, New York, 1960, p. 123.

⁷ Ibid. p. 123.

⁸ 'AUM' is a Hindu/occult sound or word used to connect you with the pantheistic energy flow or "god force" of the universe.

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