

Forcing Change



Global Calendar of Events

– 2012 –

By Carl Teichrib (www.forcingchange.org)

The following Calendar of Events is a *sampling* of conference, forums, events, and meetings taking place in 2012 – each contributing, one way or another, to the larger agenda of global transformation and international management. Although other events will take place throughout the year, common themes are already visible across many of the calendar listings. These themes are increasingly woven together; global warming is linked to the world economic crisis, and “sustainable development” to an “evolved spirituality.” Through it all, a transformed world is emerging built on the idea of interdependence.

The purpose of this calendar is to provide you with a heads-up as we enter 2012. It's a sobering reminder of the worldview shift taking place - one that will continually challenge the Christian community.

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Carl Teichrib, Editor.



January 11-13: United Nations Agencies Reaching Out**Where: Vienna, Austria**

The Academic Council on the United Nations System is hosting a multi-agency United Nations event to connect UN branches with academic leaders and major NGOs (non-governmental organizations), and thus coordinate around major themes for 2012. Some of the topics include Energy Access for All, Nuclear Security and Global Governance, and the development of a global Green Economy.

January 16-18: Rio+20 Draft Discussions**Where: New York, NY, USA**

Leading up to the Rio+20 conference in June 2012 are a number of important events that will not see much, if any, media coverage. These events, such as the Draft Discussions, will hammer out themes for the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development - one that will merge economics with the environment, and push society toward global loyalties.

January 25-29: World Economic Forum Where: Davos-Klosters, Switzerland

According to the World Economic Forum, it is "the foremost global community of business, political, intellectual and other leaders of society who are committed to improving the state of the world."

For years, the World Economic Forum has been a premier international event, drawing together top government officials with CEOs from globally significant corporations, banking and financial leaders, and social visionaries. Hence, what happens at the World Economic Forum reverberates throughout economic and political circles for months (and sometimes years) down the road.

The theme for 2012 is "The Great Transformation: Shaping New Models."

January 29-February 4: World Interfaith Harmony Week**Where: Global**

The World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) is an official United Nations program that was influenced by *The Common*

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Word campaign, a 2007 inter-religious dialogue between Muslim and Christian leaders. On September 23, 2010, King Abdullah II of Jordan proposed the idea of an Interfaith Harmony Week while at the UN General Assembly. The proposal was unanimously adopted and the first week of February was set aside as the timeframe for this interfaith program. Multiple events are set to take place during the 2012 WIHW. Here are a few:

- "Celebration of Universal Light," sponsored by the Institute of Living Universal Values and scheduled to take place in Fort Collins, Colorado on January 29.
- "Shared Sacred Spaces," sponsored by the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, Chicago, IL, on January 29. This is part of an ongoing interfaith program in Chicago that will end on May 12, 2012.
- "Turning Toward the Heart," an evening of Sufi meditations, held in Zalesie Gorne, Poland, on February 1.
- "Harmony Day," Malappuram, India, Feb. 3.
- Vivekananda Multifaith Meetup," at the Shrine of Holy Wisdom, Tempe, Arizona, February 4.

February 10-12: National Preach-In on Global Warming

Where: United States of America

The weekend of February 10-12 has been set aside as a time for religious leaders across the US to speak out regarding climate change. Hundreds of pastors and teachers from different religions will deliver sermons on global warming, the need to change behaviors and values, and the desire for a united world response to stem "climate change." The organization coordinating this political/religious campaign is Interfaith Power and Light.

February 17-20: PantheaCon

Where: San Jose, CA, USA

The PantheaCon is a longstanding pagan conference packed with lectures. Here are some of the scheduled topics/discussions and rituals:

- Blessing and Cursing: An Overview of Scottish Folk Magic.
- Triple Goddess Magic.
- 2012: Year of the Awakening.
- The Rosicrucian Vault.
- Druid Ritual: Honoring Our Ancestors.
- Healing Ritual for the City of San Jose.
- Calling in the Spirits.
- Yoga for Every Body.
- Ritual of the Green Devil.
- Sex Magic for Women.
- Pagans, Culture War, & the Modern Crisis.
- Dionysian Initiation.
- Psychic & Magickal Development for Kids.
- Men's Spirituality.
- Dance for the Dark God.

March 12-17: World Water Forum

Where: Marseilles, France

This is the 6th World Water Forum, hosted by the World Water Council – an organization whose board membership has been a virtual who's-who of global governance. The point and purpose of the World Water Forum and Council is to place global water management firmly on the international agenda. Implications of water management are considerable, impacting food production, transportation, sanitation, power generation, and many other foundational aspects of life and development.

March 14-16: GLOBE 2012**Where: Vancouver, BC, Canada**

Major corporate executives from every corner of the globe will gather in Vancouver, along with government policy makers, representatives from the banking industry, energy players, academics, and participants from special interest groups. The purpose is to network, model new technologies, and incorporate businesses with global environmental agendas. To this end, “smart grid” technologies will be showcased and a “carbon economy” will be discussed. Other relevant themes include the role of cities in a global green economy, how banks factor in social and environmental risks, and “sustainable consumerism.” Approximately 10,000 people will be attending.

March 15-17: Citizens for Global Solutions Annual Conference**Where: Washington, DC, USA.**

Citizens for Global Solutions is the largest pro-world government lobby group in the United State (formerly known as the World Federalist Association). Each spring, CGS meets in Washington DC for a time of lobbying, training, and conducting business. With 2012 being an election year, CGS will be promoting its international agenda as a foreign policy platform to Washington leaders. During the last federal campaign, known World Federalists were active in advising Obama’s people regarding the United Nations.

March 17-18: Spirit Seekers Canada**Where: Winnipeg, MB, Canada**

This is the third such Spirit Seekers conference in Winnipeg, and while the event isn’t especially large or significant, it’s listed here to draw attention to the fact that pagan/alternative spiritual gatherings take place. Indeed, there is a very active and networked

pagan/alternative spiritual community across the Western world.

For Winnipeg, this year’s Spirit Seekers event is chock-full of lectures on Christian Mysticism, mediumship, pagan rituals, healing exercises, and spiritual connections in art and architecture.

March 22-23: Technology Frontiers – Transform Your Work, Your Life, Your World**Where: London, UK**

Technology is poised to change every aspect of our lives, and this two-day conference hosted by *The Economist* will explore how this transformation is taking place. Topics and themes include,

- “Using Technology to Turn Consumer Behaviour Into A Business Model”
- “Open Minds: The New Era of Human 2.0
- New Minds, New Bodies, New Identities”
- “How Technology Changes Social Norms”
- “The Death of Cash”
- “The Politics of Technology”



March 24: Being Human 2012**Where: San Francisco, CA, USA**

Scientists, social visionaries, behavioral researchers, artists, philosophers, and at least one spiritual leader (Tibetan Lama Gelek Rimpoche) will gather in San Francisco for a one-day event to explore the future of “being human.” Cognition, consciousness, the relationship between individuals and society, morality and culture, and human/social integration will be examined through the lens of evolution.

Events like this will become more significant as humanity unifies politically, religiously/ethically, and economically in a “one world” concept.

March 26-29: Planet Under Pressure**Where: London, England**

The global scientific community will be meeting in London to flesh out a new vision of world change based on science, technology, and sustainable development. To this end, one of the goals is to provide scientific guidance to the Rio+20 conference in June. Another goal is to demonstrate that governance and technology can work hand-in-hand at all levels, from local to global, in providing world change solutions. In a real sense, the Planet Under Pressure conference is a blend of technocracy and global governance.

Working sessions include:

- “New Strategies for Defining Planetary Boundaries”
- “Climate, energy and water: A Challenge for Integrating Management of Planetary Boundaries.”
- “Challenges of Integration.”
- “Collective Action for the Transition to a Sustainable Society.”
- “Visioning for a Truly Sustainable World.”
- “Transforming Our Way of Living – The New Humanism: Going Beyond Economic

Rationality.” (This working session asks the question; “Can the present global governance address the emerging global environmental changes and is there a need for a new world order?”)

- “Global Environmental Governance and National Action Plans.”

**March 28-29: Enhancing Human Experience via Emerging Technologies****Where: Laval, France**

This conference on transhumanism will explore the emerging technologies of human change, including robotics, mind-computer interfacing, theoretical technologies, nanotechnologies, and other intersecting points between science and human enhancement. Other points of interest to be discussed include the issues of religion and belief, morality and ethical considerations, social dimensions, science policy options, and hybrid engineering.

April 16-17: Engaging Hearts & Minds – An Agenda for Global Citizenship Education**Where: Toronto, ON, Canada**

Hosted by the Centennial College Institute for Global Citizenship, this conference is designed as a space where academics and organizers can network, plan and coordinate, and challenge each other towards global citizenship activities. Global citizenship school curriculum is one of themes for this two-day event.

April 18-20: Lund Conference on Earth System Governance

Where: Lund, Sweden

As the title says, this conference is focused on Earth System Governance, including global economic changes necessary for Earth management, formulating international democracy, and promoting social justice themes to shift economic and political realities. One question that underscores this event is “who governs the earth system and how?” The Lund Conference would best be considered a high-level academic event, with professors attending from Rutgers University, the London School of Economics, Warwick University, Washington State, Brown University, Scheffield University, and other major academic centers.

April 22: Earth Day/International Mother Earth Day

Where: Global

Earth Day is a massive celebration of Earth, sustainability, and green thinking. At its core, Earth Day represents humanity in a spiritual/ethical alliance with Mother Earth. This fact is exemplified in the United Nations declaration proclaiming that April 22 is International Mother Earth Day. Millions of people from every corner of the globe will celebrate this event.

April 23-25: World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates

Where: Chicago, IL, USA

The World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates takes place every two years, but this is the first time the event is coming to the United States. Titled, “Speak Up, Speak Out for Freedom and Rights,” it is anticipated that the Summit will take a decidedly internationalist approach. This is already evidenced in the Nobel Peace Laureates’ *Charter for a World Without Violence*, which calls for col-

lective security by the international community, including the strengthening of the “UN system as well as regional cooperative organizations” (ie, NATO). Co-chairing the Chicago event will be former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, and former Mayor of Rome Walter Veltroni.

May 12: Scottish Pagan Conference

Where: Edinburgh, Scotland

Hosted by the Scottish Pagan Federation, this event brings together druids, shamans, witches, and pagan practitioners from across Scotland. Margot Adler, a famous High Priestess, is the main speaker.

May 12: Sharing Sacred Spaces

Where: Chicago, IL, USA

This is the last day of an ongoing interfaith program in the city of Chicago. It started last fall with an event at the Midwest Buddhist Temple, then consecutive events at Fourth Presbyterian Church, St. James Episcopal Cathedral, Chicago Sinai Congregation, First United Methodist, Seventeenth Church of Christ (Christian Science), Old St. Patrick’s Church, and finally in May at the Downtown Islamic Center where an interfaith declaration will be signed by Chicago’s religious leaders.

May 12-22: Challenge the NATO War Makers

Where: Chicago, IL, USA

Dozens of Marxist, socialist, and radical organizations are planning a massive anti-NATO, anti-G8 protest event in Chicago. Keep in mind that the Challenge protest isn’t about halting globalization *per se*, but about demanding a socialist-Marxist version as opposed to the Western government/corporate view.

May 13-18: World Congress on Water, Climate and Energy
Where: Dublin, Ireland

Bringing together technicians, scientists and policy experts, this Congress bridges three interlocking areas; water, climate, and energy under the theme “Building a Sustainable Global Future.” Climate change will be a dominant topic, flavoring the entire event. Issues to be discussed include;

- Integrating water and energy governance “in a changing climate.”
- Adaptation to global warming and mitigating climate crisis.
- Management of water utilities and the water-energy connection.
- Water competition and resource scarcity.
- The impact on agriculture and food production.
- Green business models, environmental regulations, and policies toward sustainable development.

Notable speakers are,

- Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Koo Teng Chye, Executive Director of Liveable Cities.
- Gerard M. Mooney, General Manager of Global Government and Education, IBM.
- James L. Barnard, WEF Fellow at IBM.

May 13-19: Degrowth in the Americas
Where: Montreal, Quebec, Canada

“Degrowth” is a radical call to reject capitalism, “no matter if it is ‘green’ or ‘socially just,’ and no matter if it has State-run or private enterprises.” It is a call to curtail economic growth and development, to allow the earth’s ecosystem and human population levels to “balance,” and to find the right spiritual/philosophical worldviews to enable this re-

structuring to take place. Confirmed participants include Naomi Klein, author of *The Shock Doctrine*, and David Suzuki, Canada’s leading environmentalist.

May 15-22: NATO Summit
Where: Chicago, IL, USA

The primary task of the Chicago NATO Summit will be to review the progress of the recently announced *Strategic Concept*, an action plan to guide NATO’s evolution as a global security player. Forward developments in the *Strategic Concept* include greater linkages between NATO and the United Nations, including political cooperation; strengthening partnerships with the European Union; enhancing the relationship between NATO and Russia; tightening ties with Georgia and the Ukraine; and working more closely in the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf zones.

At the same time it’s not anticipated that the White House will push for major changes. Instead, some in the Atlantic Council perceive that Washington will view the Summit “as something to get through rather than as a vehicle for making NATO more viable.” Why? Because two other looming events will take the stage; the G8 meeting, which takes place at the same time in the same city, and the American president election happening in November.

May 15: Climate Change – The New Economy
Where: Chicago, IL, USA

This is not a meeting, but a book launch meant to add weight to the climate change/green economy agenda. Guest authors to *Climate Change: The New Economy*, come from major industries and global organizations. The purpose of this book is straightforward: Influence G8 leaders in the quest

to transform the global economy through carbon markets/carbon credits.

Sponsors and affiliates of *Climate Change: The New Economy* include.

- Microsoft.
- General Eclectic.
- Siemens.
- Philips.
- Pirelli.
- World Wildlife Fund.
- United Nations Environment Programme.
- Green Cross.
- IUCN.
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

May 15-22: G8 Summit
Where: Chicago, IL, USA

The G8 includes the heads-of-state and foreign ministers of France, Canada, Japan, Italy, Russia, England, Germany, and the United States. Each year these leaders come together to discuss the global economy, development agendas, and international security.

May 17: Europe 2020 – Towards Innovative and Inclusive Union

Where: Skopje, Macedonia

This one-day academic conference will focus on challenges and opportunities leading toward tighter European integration, especially in light of the recent economic problems now experienced across the euro-zone.

May 25-27: First GLOBE Summit of Legislators

Where: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Legislators – including senators, congressional leaders, and parliamentarians from around the world – will negotiate “a legislator’s protocol” to support the United Nations’ push for global sustainable development. Developing this protocol, which is to be ratified by individual nations, will send a message to heads of state leading up to Rio+20. Furthermore, it will act as a government commitment document to the UN agenda.



Chicago will be a busy city in 2012. From activist events to interfaith gatherings, from NATO to the G8 and more.

May 29-31: Adaptation Futures – 2012 International Conference on Climate Adaptation

Where: Tucson, Arizona, USA

Co-hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme and the University of Arizona, the Adaptation Futures conference will not be focusing on the science of climate change, rather it takes the approach that global warming is occurring and seeks ways for societies to adapt. To this end, “future extremes,” rising sea levels, and “landscape transformation” issues will be discussed, with an eye toward behavioral and political responses. Funding for global climate adaptation will be a major talking point: “who pays, and for what, where, and how long?”

Over 1000 community leaders, academics, and researchers attended the first Adaptation Futures conference in 2010.

June 1-3: World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability

Where: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme, this World Congress will engage with chief justices, attorneys-general, public prosecutors, and others involved in national justice and law communities. The point of this event is to empower

and equip justice officials in framing national legal cases in the context of international law, and in promoting “the goals of sustainable development.”

June 4-6: Peoples’ Summit at UNCSD

Where: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Leading up to the Rio+20 conference is a major event hosted by a multitude of special lobby groups. These non-governmental organizations, by and large, are significant supporters of global governance, United Nations empowerment, and international socialism. It is anticipated that the Peoples’ Summit, which meets a few weeks before the main Rio event, will be designed to influence the Rio agenda and bring maximum pressure on world leaders gathering later in the month.

June 17-24: Pagan Spirit Gathering

Where: Earlville, IL, USA

The Pagan Spirit Gathering (PSG) is one of the largest and oldest pagan gatherings in the United States. With a special focus on nature spirituality, the PSG invites pagans, wiccans, druids, eco-feminists, pantheists, shamans, and nature mystics for a week of rituals, workshops, lectures, ceremonies, concerts, and social networking events.

June 20-22: Rio+20 – United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Where: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

This is one of the most important events for 2012. Drawing from the success and shortcomings of the first Rio Earth Summit in 1992, this twentieth anniversary will bring world leaders to the table in the quest for a system of global gov-



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

ernance through environmental management. The “Right to Sustainable Energy,” as a key piece of the “green economy,” will be one major item on the table. Expect a renewed push from national governments in promoting “green” economic solutions following Rio+20. This may be sold to the public under the guise of developing “New Foundations for the Future.”

June 22-September 21: Summer of Peace 2012

Where: Global

Produced by the New Age-based Shift Network, Summer of Peace 2012 is a dedicated global celebration and action call for world unity, world peace, and world transformation. This celebration is to include conferences and meetings, artistic displays, film festivals, concerts, online events, and media campaigns. It culminates on September 21, the United Nations International Day of Peace.

June 28-29: Post-Crisis Banking

Where: Amsterdam, Holland

As the global financial crisis continues to unfold, questions surrounding post-crisis banking arise: What will change within the international banking community? How will banking regulations be re-formatted for the post-crisis financial industry? What will the banking landscape look like in the future? Will new institutions be needed for stability?

For two days, banking leaders, academics and financial experts will examine the core of these concerns. Speakers at this conference will include Willem Buiter (Chief Economist at Citigroup), Jaime Caruana (General Manager at the Bank for International Settlements), Mark Flannery (Bank of America Eminent Scholar), and Eric Rosengren (President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston).

July 8-12: XXII World Congress of Political Science

Where: Madrid, Spain

“Reshaping Power, Shifting Boundaries” is the theme of the 21st World Congress of Political Science, sponsored by the International Political Science Association. Academic in nature, this event will bring together political science professors, graduate students, and policy makers. This is an important event on two levels.

First, many of those attending will move into government offices or key positions after graduation, or will be influential within the university system. Second, the theme of the conference reflects the dynamic of world affairs: Nation-states are no longer sufficient in a global society, new international power players are emerging, and “non-state actors” are increasingly shaping new circles of power. All of these reference points are couched in the rising reality of “global governance.”

July 9-13: International Congress of the World Federalist Movement

Where: Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

The World Federalist Movement is an influential pro-world government organization, and has been instrumental in global governance agendas for decades – having the ear of the United Nations and inroads within the European Union. Every four years, the World Federalist Movement hosts an international congress where members of this movement can discuss World Federalist issues, agenda items, and channel their energies toward the goal of world governance. In 2012, the WFM International Congress will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

July 12-24: Esoteric Traditions in the Ancient and Modern World

Where: Alexandria, Egypt - *NOTE: Due to the political unrest in Egypt the venue has changed to Greece.*

Open to all esoteric/occult students and practitioners, this conference will examine the historic and contemporary importance of esotericism. Theosophy will receive special attention, exploring its past influence and its future in shaping the spiritual culture of the Western world.

Note: Theosophy was key in the blossoming of the modern New Age Movement.

July 15-19: NAIN Connect
Where: Atlanta, GA, USA

This is the main event for the North American Interfaith Network, an American-Canadian interfaith organization. NAIN campaigns include interfaith work for climate change, global peace, and inter-religious dialogue. At this point 55 organizations are members of NAIN, including the United Religions Initiative, United Church of Canada, Salt Lake City Interfaith Roundtable, Religions for Peace USA, Hartford Seminary, the Interfaith Center at the Presidio, Covenant of the Goddess, and the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio.

**July 27-29: WorldFuture 2012**
Where: Toronto, ON, Canada

Each year the World Future Society holds a major conference on global trends and one-world concepts, incorporating environmental issues, energy challenges, science and technology, culture and consciousness, world affairs and global governance.

September 1-7: United Nations World Urban Forum 6

Where: Naples, Italy

This is the 6th UN World Urban Forum, a premier event on the role of cities in the global context. And this year's forum will feature six thematic domains,

Dialogue 1 – Productive Cities

Dialogue 2 – Livable cities/Quality of Life

Dialogue 3 – Urban Planning/Institutions and Regulations

Dialogue 4 – Equity and Prosperity

Dialogue 5 – Culture

Dialogue 6 – Urban Mobility, Energy and Environment.

September 21: United Nations International Day of Peace/International Day of Peace Vigil

Where: Global

The UN International Day of Peace is a UN-declared single day event/campaign focused on raising awareness toward world peace, primarily through the channel of international unity and global governance. Accompanying this campaign is a faith-based International Day of Peace Vigil meant to “bring a spiritual dimension to the peace process.” This vigil is supported by the United Nations and has the official backing of spiritual/religious organizations such as the Hindu-based Aetherius Society, the Roman Catholic Brothers of the Sacred

Heart, the Church of Scientology, A Course in Miracles International, Franciscans International, the Interfaith Center of New York, the Mennonite Central Committee, United Religions Initiative, the New Age-based Temple of Understanding, and Sun Myong Moon's Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace.

September 21-23: Earthdance Global Festival For Peace

Where: Global

Built around the UN International Day of Peace, Earthdance is a global festival meant to foster world unity, peace, and social justice. Thousands of people participate in concerts and artistic events. Started in 1997, this annual Earthdance has now been witnessed in 80 countries and held in 500 locations. Earthdance is also part of the New Age-based Prayer for Peace, where thousands of people collectively pray for world unity, bridging meditation with action in a type of ritualistic planetary experience. Find below the world prayer,

"We are one global family

All colors, All races

One world united.

We dance for peace and the healing of our planet Earth

Peace for all nations.

Peace for our communities.

And peace within ourselves.

As we join all dance floors across the world,

Let us connect heart to heart.

Through our diversity we recognize Unity.

Through our compassion we recognize Peace.

Our love is the power to transform our world

Let us send it out

NOW."

September 21-23: Australian Wiccan Conference

Where: Hawkesbury River District, New South Wales, Australia

Organized by the Pagan Awareness Network, the Wiccan Conference will incorporate group rituals - including Spring Equinox and Elemental invocations, workshops on paganism and wiccan living, networking and social events, and lectures. It is one of the premier gatherings of Wiccans/witches in Australia.

October 13-21: Awakened World 2012

Where: Rome and Florence, Italy

300 spiritual leaders from many faiths and traditions will meet in Rome, then Florence, to map-out "the evolution of religion and spirituality in the 21st century." According to event literature, "The work of the group will focus on training and empowering agents of change," as our present age "is now giving rise to a new global consciousness." Moving towards this event is a charter initiative, the drafting of *A Charter for Engaged Spirituality in the 21st Century*. A core group of influential people is being constructed to guide this event. Invitees to the Core Group include,

- Dalai Lama of Tibet.

- Giuliano Amato: Former Prime Minister of Italy.

- Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran: Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

- Cardinal Walter Kasper: Pontifical Council for Ecumenism.

- Marcus Braybrooke: President, World Council of Faiths.

- Charles Gibbs: Executive Director, United Religions Initiative.

- Barbara Marx Hubbard: President, Foundation for Conscious Evolution.

- Yolande Iliano: Chairperson, Religions for Peace Europe.
- Deepak Chopra: Author and teacher.
- Vinu Aram: Past President, World Conference of Religions for Peace.
- Amy S. Marks: Baha'i World Center and Co-Chair of the 1999 Parliament of the World's Religions.

These are the hosting organizations,

- International Interreligious Peace Council
- Association of Global New Thought
- Interreligious Engagement Project.

November 1-3: The Governance of a Complex World

Where: Nice, France

This is an international conference looking at the technical issues of global management as a response to global crisis, with the aim of identifying the technical/institutional changes needed for a "new society." Politics,

economics, social factors, and the role of science will be explored as parts of an evolving system of global governance.

December 21: Peace 2012 – A Moment of Peace

Where: Global

Peace 2012 is a New Age, world-synchronized "universal moment of reflection" as the solstice meshes with "the end of the 5,125-year cycle in the Mayan calendar." Tens of thousands of people around the globe will take part through peace meditations, spiritual exercises, focused intention on planetary transformation ("global prayer"), and other "collective psyche" activities. According to the Peace 2012 website, "The goal of the 'moment of peace' is to use this unique moment in time to create a global experience of unity."



December 21-28: New Group of World Servers Festival

Where: Global

The New Group of World Servers (NGWS) is a “subjectively united group with no outer organization” inspired through the writings of Theosophist Alice Bailey and her “Tibetan Master” – a spirit guide, understood Biblically as a demonic entity. Although the NGWS does not have an “outer organization,” it is loosely based on three levels.

- 1) A core group of occult adepts “who know what they are doing,” and are “open to the vision of the Plan.” This body represents the inspiring energy of the larger goal.
- 2) Younger disciples – those who are on their way to become initiates in tune with occult spiritual energy; “They respond and act.”
- 3) “The hundreds and thousands of men and women of goodwill around the world” who work in governments and religions, and who “translate energy into action.” These multitudes “serve to implement the Plan.”

(<http://souledout.org/newworldreligion/ngws/wsgngws1.html>)

Once every seven years in December, according to occult schools, a certain zodiac event allows vast spiritual energies to flood Earth, resulting in a “huge spiritual awakening.” This seven-day, seven-year occurrence is known as the week of “group impact” and referred to as the “Festival Week.” Lucis Trust and World Goodwill, organizations derived from the work of Alice Bailey, are the guiding bodies behind this week. To that end, Lucis Trust produces meditations to enable “group fusion” – “I am one with my group of brothers and all that I have is theirs.” All of this is meant to bring about global emergence and transformation. Meditations and occult events will take place around the world.

December 22: Birth 2012 Convergence

Where: Global

New Age leader Barbara Marx Hubbard is calling December 22, 2012, a “global birthday.” Other top New Age teachers are working with her, hoping that December 22 will earmark a global evolutionary leap that will unite the world spiritually, socially, and consciously. According to the Birth 2012 Convergence website, this birthday or “due-date” is stemming from “a growing movement of worldwide citizens who are committed to linking hearts and minds with others and consciously co-creating the next stage of evolution.” It is claimed that 48,000 “global change agents” have committed “to evolving humanity into the next era through Birth 2012!”

Peace on Earth: True or False?

By Berit Kjos (www.crossroad.to)

"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." - John 1:11

Would you and I have received Him? Would we have recognized Jesus as the long-awaited King?

Two thousand years ago, the masses neither believed nor accepted Him. Seeking an earthly kingdom ruled by a human king, some stretched His words to fit their vision. Others sought to kill Him. The reason? He made "good" people feel bad, for His message exposed their sin.

"...the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light..." - John 3:19

Through the centuries, religious leaders have often added the name or promises of Jesus to their self-made paths to peace. The marketing message of the popular Christian painter, Thomas Kinkade - probably written by professional advertisers rather than Mr. Kinkade himself - shows the growing acceptance of such spiritual synthesis today:

"My newest work, A Prayer for Peace, is a poignant reminder that peace in our world is always possible for those who believe and pray. The dramatic figure of a prophet occupies the rocky heights above the city. To my mind, **he is a Christ figure**, but I have treated him with a **deep spirituality** that could well be **embraced by people of other beliefs**. Illuminated by a radiant moon, this **holy person** prays... that the warm glow of moonlight can wrap the walled city in a **spiritual blanket of serenity**." [1]

Would the true Jesus point to "glow of moonlight" as a source of peace? Would His true followers respect other gods and gurus as "holy?" Would our Lord, who prayed "Thy will be done," pray such a prayer as that?

As the curtain falls on the "Christian" era in the West, the timeless divide between God's Light and the world's false glow becomes more visible. And no month better illustrates this hostility toward Jesus than December. Those who envision global peace through social engineering can't tolerate any signs of the new-born king. Kwanzaa and winter solstice may fit, but Bethlehem's manger must be banned from all places funded by our taxes. That ban is now being stretched to include non-Christian symbols such as Christmas trees, Santa, Rudolph... even red and green colors.



An article titled, "Santa Claus Deemed Too 'Religious' for School Fundraiser," quotes an angry parent who accused the local elementary school of breaking the law by featuring Santa Claus, a "religious" figure.

"I look forward to sponsoring an event that is within the law and inclusive of all," the offended parent wrote in her letter to the superintendent. "This is not an argument about religion; it is about the law of our land." [2]

In a world that trusts feelings more than facts, this absurd argument makes sense. It illustrates the attitude of those who despise the slightest reminder of that Holy Night long ago. But we shouldn't be surprised. God warned us that the world would have little tolerance for His truth and followers:

"If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you... If they persecuted Me they will persecute you... for they do not know the One who sent Me." (John 15:19-21)

Those who "do not know" Him can't understand why He came. Many consider the gospel a myth and the cross an outrage. Having rationalized sin and justified their compromise with immorality, they dismiss His death and resurrection. Their quest for "peace" demands denial of His Truth.

Two kinds of PEACE

Many Old Testament prophets foretold the birth of Jesus and His indescribable peace: ***"For Unto us a child is born..."*** wrote Isaiah centuries before Christ was born.

"His name shall be Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end." - Isaiah 9:6-7

"Glory to God in the highest," sang the angels who announced His birth. ***"And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*** (Luke 2:14)

Yes, through the cross there would be "peace on earth" - a peace that far exceeds the shallow illusions of blinded idealists. God's joyful angels proclaimed a heavenly peace for all who welcomed the King into their lives. Reigning in their hearts, He would establish His spiritual Kingdom - in and through His own people still living as "pilgrims and sojourners" in a corrupt world.

That may sound strange to those who share the vision of global solidarity. But remember the question Jesus asked His confused, earth-focused disciples: ***"Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division."*** (Luke 12:51)

The world still despises this division. Wanting peace and unity on its own terms, it calls for pluralism, inclusiveness, an end to the stigma of sin, and tolerance for all that God calls wrong. The British article, "Whose Country Is It?" illustrates the deception:

“In recent times we have increasingly seen officialdom trying desperately not to offend minorities at Christmastime. Reacting to their need for political correctness, supposedly to encourage **inclusiveness** but actually creating divisions and dissent, the imposition of attitudinal fascism by officials at Christmas is even more nasty than usual. Schools and councils hold festivals to celebrate (if that is the right word) **multiculturalism**. Holly and Christmas trees are banned, even though they have their origins in pagan celebrations of the winter solstice. The carol service becomes a **multicultural concert**...” [3]

Today’s high tech media and rejection of God’s absolutes (the anchor of our faith) speeds this transformation. The pragmatic (“whatever works”) attitude taught by the emerging, purpose-driven movements reject Biblical discernment as divisive. Pastor Rick Warren’s “close friend” Senator Barack Obama, now President, made the following statement at the “Building a Covenant for a New America” conference in June 2006:

“Democracy demands that the **religiously motivated translate their concerns into universal, rather than religion-specific, values**... It requires that their proposals be subject to argument, and amenable to reason... Now this is going to be difficult for some who believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, as many evangelicals do. But **in a pluralistic democracy, we have no choice**.” [4]

True PEACE

Actually, we do have a choice: To deny Him or to follow Him. The latter may cost us our jobs, friends, freedom, and worldly acceptance. But through the centuries, His faithful friends have gladly given their all to follow Him. Loving Him more than the world, they faced imprisonment, torture, and cruel death. But the peace of His presence was worth the pain of persecution.

A Jewish girl in Nazi Germany discovered this wonderful truth when she learned to trust Jesus. Anita Dittman tells her amazing story in the book, *Trapped in Hitler's Hell*:

“It was 1933... I couldn’t come home after school without suffering a stoning or a beating... And this was just the beginning of what would be a twelve-year nightmare - twelve years of waiting for a knock on the door from the Gestapo; for a loved one to be dragged away by the hair or the beard to points unknown; for a boxcar ride, to be jammed in with hundreds of frightened, weeping people on their way to a death camp; or for a merciful bullet to end it all.

Among those unfortunate Jews I was to be one of the few with a real home. **I would come to know Jesus who was to offer peace in the midst of the turmoil. After all, wasn’t He the Prince of Peace?**” [5]

Indeed He is! And to Anita, one of the highlights of those horrible years was Christmas 1944. By now a skeletal teenager struggling to survive unthinkable labor on a starvation diet in a Nazi work camp, she rejoiced in an unthinkable gift: She and a few other Christians were given permission to

celebrate Christmas Eve in a nearby village church. A guard would go with them, so they prayed that the truth about Christ would touch his cold heart.

“To war-weary Christian prisoners who loved Jesus, this was the best news in months, perhaps years... Twenty of us trudged over the snow-covered hills and meadows that night to a little country church... The snow was falling lightly...

That night we huddled in the little church with a hundred or more of the farmers and townspeople. We sang Christmas carols and praised the Lord until well after midnight. As we read the Christmas story, we were reassured that Jesus knew our every ache because He also had been a man and had experienced human grief. In the dim candlelight we all gathered at the altar on our knees and prayed for Germany and our separated families; the guard stood careful watch in the doorway. Then we trudged home in the moonlight, for the snow had stopped falling.” [6]

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” - 2 Corinthians 9:15

Berit Kjos is the author of *A Twist of Faith* and *Brave New Schools*. Her website is a wealth of informative and provocative essays and articles (www.crossroad.to).

Endnotes:

1. Thomas Kinkade, "A Prayer for Peace," at www.thomaskinkade.com/magi/servlet/com.asucon.ebiz.catalog.web.tk.CatalogServlet?catalogAction=Product&productId=204561
2. "Santa Clause Deemed Too 'Religious' for School Fundraiser," <http://www.cnsnews.com/ViewCulture.asp?Page=/Culture/archive/200611/CUL20061130e.html> [Link no longer active].
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4. Erin Roach "Obama Asks Evangelicals To Assimilate," July 5, 2006, http://www.evangelicalnews.org/indiv_pr.php?pr_id=6279
5. Anita Dittman with Jan Markell, *Trapped in Hitler's Hell*, published by Lighthouse Trails, 2005, pages 12-13.
6. *Ibid.*, p.134.

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