

Gestures

NEWSLETTER OF THE



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Why Our Kids?

By Gary L. Krupp KC*SG, PTWF Founder

Children are the Earth's most precious resource. Each one has the potential to benefit his fellow man and add to the culture in which we live in ways that no one can predict. A child's role is to play and to learn, to provide love and accept the love of his parents and loved ones. A child is not a soldier, a political activist or a terrorist.

Yet, in today's world, we see thousands of examples of the abuse of our young people. We see images of children in combat situations and in organized protests. Sometimes children are used as suicide bombers and just as despicably as human shields. In Africa, children are hacked to death. In the Middle East, children are used in photo-op rallies and are photographed using their sling shots to attack Israeli army personnel.

The abuse of children is not new; in the last days of The Third Reich, we saw Adolph Hitler massing the last remaining defenders of Berlin, young boys just entering their teens, to be sent to their deaths in combat against seasoned soldiers of the allied command.

Children are used as pawns by desperate men who feel somehow that the ends they are trying to achieve justify the abuse and slaughter of children. (continued on page 2)



Children Kidnapped in Bagdad

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They may feel that their mission is from God and that all else is second to their goals. How do we combat this as moral, intelligent human beings? This question has not been successfully answered throughout the ages.

No matter what happens, good or bad, children will be the successors of the conditions that we leave to them. Those who help children learn and grow know this and use that knowledge to guide their activities. Those who commit violent and despicable acts and use children to further their own ends know this fact as well. They are looking to change conditions for the next generation. However, they are willing to sacrifice the next generation, or at least many members of it, to achieve the conditions they want. The only solution to this has been more violence, wars to stop the unjust activities.

To logical and moral individuals, the abuse of children cannot be justified. Yet for the religious zealots, this can be considered a sacrifice similar to that of father Abraham, when he was told by God to take the life of his son upon an altar. This is not easy to refute – thus war has been the only hope for stopping it. Yet this situation cannot be successfully and permanently dealt with by the laity, by governments and armies. It can only be dealt with by the true religious leaders among us.

Education is the key to this problem. Children are unique in their innocence and their minds are eager to learn. We form the majority of our impression of those by our exposure to our families and their attitude. Children’s minds are the unwritten notebook of information which many compete to write upon. In adolescence and during their formative years our children develop passions for causes and with their youth and strength move issues to the international center stage. This is a very important tool which is used to advance one’s agenda. How then can we positively impact these impressionable minds in time? How can we prevent generations of hatred being moved to these the youngest members of society?

“NO child of the next generation should have to face violence or forced military service.”

“It is up to all of us to put a stop to the chain of hate and intolerance that has plagued generations of young people.”



Palestinian Children in Protest Rally

Through the effort of many wonderful organizations, projects involving children are being promoted. Education is the most important factor in dealing with the next generation of citizens. Negative manipulative education and demonizing is nothing more than a time bomb waiting to explode. Pave the Way Foundation seizes upon every opportunity to teach based on facts and proof. This policy should be encouraged by all peace-loving people who want to make a real difference in the course of events.

The most important fact that I wish to share with everyone is that we must never assume that someone knows the truth. Biased media and intentional demonizing are the tools used by the evil in the world to set the time bomb for the future. If we are ever to change this unending tide of violence

we must come to realize this and deal effectively with these enemies of peace.

NO child of the next generation should have to face violence or forced military service. It is up to all of us to put a stop to the chain of hate and intolerance that has plagued generations of young people.

Pave the Way Foundation is committed to ending religious hatred and intolerance by removing the tool of “religion” from those who will use it for malevolent purposes. We have taken and continue to take decisive steps to educate the every day person, adults and children. We promote projects which have demonstrated enormous historic gestures of good will. When the “silent majority” learns the truth, they will act rationally, rethink past hatreds, oppose stereotypical lies and act with tolerance for their fellow man. – Gary L. Krupp



What is Pave the Way Foundation?

Our Mission

Pave the Way Foundation is dedicated to achieving peace by bridging the gap in tolerance and understanding between religions through cultural, technological and intellectual exchanges. We strive to eliminate the use of religion as a tool which, historically, has been used by some to achieve personal agendas and to cause conflicts.

Through our projects and our concrete gestures of good will, we hope to pave the way towards global education directed to the everyday "grass roots" person. We must now all recognize the dangers of apathy and silence.

Embrace our Similarities; Savor our Differences

The meaning of our slogan is simple. We must embody the messages of charity, love and responsibility for every human being, common to all of our faiths, our beliefs and to the code of human behavior. We focus on our similarities and savor our differences by learning, through the positive and practical appreciation of the World's diverse religions and beliefs. We must not allow the differences to poison us with bigotry, hatred and intolerance. Instead, we wish to learn, enhance our own beliefs and in turn savor our differences.



PAVING THE WAY – ON THE ROAD

“...And a Little Child Will Lead Them”

By Meredith Krupp M.S., PTWF Co-Founder

Recently, during one of our trips to see Pave the Way Foundation board member Darlene Slamen in Alabama, Gary had the opportunity to address two middle school classes in Birmingham. He briefly talked to them about our foundation and explained that we were planning to have the first “Children’s Conference on Religious Tolerance” in their own city of Birmingham and that we wanted them to be involved. The children seemed quite interested and a lively question and answer session followed.

In advance of our visit, the teachers and students had discussions on the definition of the word “tolerance” as well as “intolerance”, and talked about how this topic related to their every day lives. Most of the children admitted that bullying, the non-acceptance of different views and the un-fairness to others who are different, was the major form of intolerance in school and posed a serious problem. At the conclusion of these lessons, the students were asked to write a short answer to the question, “How can you make the world a better place for tolerance and peace?” Furthermore, when the class found out that Gary was a Knight of St. Gregory the Great, they decided to write each answers on a paper “shield”, to be given to “Sir” Gary when he arrived at school.



Some Examples of the Shields from Birmingham Students

The following are some of the theories, written by these twelve and thirteen year olds, on how they can save our world. The responses were surprisingly wise and reflected the bright minds as well as the innocence of the students, the leaders of tomorrow. It reminded me of an old television show produced by Art Linkletter, and in honor of Mr. Linkletter, I call this section...

Kids Say the Darnedest Things

(Many students wrote about bullying which is very relevant in their world):

“When I get older, I could start a program that scopes out bullies in schools and helps bullies solve their problems privately, because usually when bullies cause problems at school, there are some problems of their own. These kids start out as bullies, but end up as terrorists.” - Valentina

“I could make my school a place where everyone is nice, sweet and good through sharing my beliefs through words and actions. In other words, I can lead by example.” -Summer

“If I see bullies hurting people, I could encourage them to stop and see if the victim of this cruel act needs any help. That person may have been bullied all their lives and they could need psychological help. The person who is bullying would definitely need help because terrorizing people is not normal. I could try my best to get both people the physical and mental help that they need. Terrorists need help too.” –Tricia

“I can be kind and accepting even to those who are so different from me.” – Jade

“To make my school and world a better place, I would help people be bully-proof.” – Katie

“To help world peace I can try to stop kids from gossiping in our school” –Mary Kathryn

“I believe that I could stop terrorism by influencing my friends not to be intrigued by violence and cursing...Stopping bad behavior in school is the solution to world peace.” –George

“I think I could help by stopping bullying in school and making sure I don’t start a fight myself.” – Jake

“I believe I could reduce world terrorism by reporting bullies to school officials.” –Ali

“To have world peace we could stop being so pushy in school. Clothes and possessing things don’t make you what you are, so you shouldn’t judge others on what they have.” –Evelyn

“I would like to stop bullying here....Kids are being bullied because they dress different or are weaker than others. Those kids will start doing bad things just to get revenge on the kids that bullied them.” –Zach

“I can help students become more responsible by helping them with assignments and homework that they don’t understand. This is so frustrating because it can get you upset, your parents mad at you, and you can fail.” – Patrick

“I am going to prevent bullying by making sure everyone gets along with each other great!” – Leigh

(Other students went beyond school and bullying with ideas to promote world peace):

“I believe I can promote world peace by helping unemployment. The phrase “idle hands are the devils’ workshop” proves my point. If we improved employment people would not waste their time on bad things, like creating computer viruses or robbing a building. When people aren’t doing things that matter, their minds wander and their hands start doing bad things.” –Owen

“The greatest challenge is to conquer yourself. If I can conquer my fears, shames, myself, I can conquer anything!” – Kristy

“I want to promote employment. When people don’t work they get bored and begin to do bad things such as robbery and homicide.” - Patrick

“In my heart I believe that even though I am only 13, I can help prevent violence by telling people the possible outcome of their flaws and that if they continue they could ruin their lives and maybe other lives, too.” –Karolyn

“I would stop terrorists by teaching kids and young people how to control their anger...then there would not be anyone who will just destroy someone for doing a small thing that was not intended. Also, there would not be as many wars and that would definitely make the world a much better place to live.” –Jamal

"I believe that if adults teach young people about peace and being role models, the world would be a better and more peaceful place." – David

"I can set a good example for younger kids. The future lies in their hands and they can follow my footsteps." –Laura

"I could influence donations and charities to provide certain things for soldiers, homeless, refugees and runaways." – Will

"I can strengthen our country's defense and join the military to strengthen our security." – Andrew

"What I can do to stop terrorism is to support our troops in Iraq and other places, and also prepare myself if I get called to go and fight one day." – Wesley

"The world would be a safer place maybe by building less powerful weapons and spending more on psychology. I believe this would bring world peace." – James

"I believe that I can change the world by being a drug-free citizen and ready to make others drug-free citizens as well." – Forest.

"To keep the world safe we need to keep the world clean and not litter." – Alex

Until next time... – Meredith Krupp M.S.



Our Hope For the Future

By Lauren Feldman, PTWF Director of Youth Services

It is again that time of year where I sit in the backseat of my parents' car on a brisk December evening and am greeted by a glittering display of red, green, and white Christmas lights and the welcoming flickering of the menorah candles. It is, to me, a familiar sight— an annual talisman of the diverse community which I am fortunate enough to call my home. But the successive process of growth and the increased skepticism, that is, for me, inherent to it, certainly lends itself to a greater analysis of my town ritual. The fact that other locations do not share the experience of consecutive houses celebrating in similarity their own distinction has rarely, in the past, come to mind. However, the state of the world as it exists now begs it to.

In contemplating the question, my thoughts pass repeatedly to the basest aspect of human nature, the mob mentality. Fear of the unknown manifests itself as fear of the outsider, and since time immemorial parallel groups have been annihilated and subjugated for the purposes of ensuring conformity. People are not individually despised; rather, it is the larger group which is mistrusted. However, like nationality, like religion – no religion in the world preaches hatred and violence, yet it is also undeniable to say that religion is the cause, if only indirectly, of much of the world's conflict. We as humans are limited by our animal instincts – we are inherently programmed to think within our own pack.

However, our own primitive nature can yet be overcome by that which distinguishes us from our evolutionary ancestors. Humans, uniquely, have the ability to reason, to overcome innate prejudices and bias.

The people who have understood this have become revered, not only as the progressives of their own age, but as the greatest luminaries of all ages – the Benjamin Franklins, Voltaires, and Gandhis. They are the enlightened ones, the ones who have understood that our own cherished rituals, customs, and beliefs are not universal, and are not to be made so. Gary Krupp is a true modern-day visionary and I am proud to support Pave the Way Foundation as Director of Youth Services.

It is on this note that my thoughts turn back to the decorations in my own neighborhood. I am not naïve to suggest that this scenery of American pluralism can be duplicated, but I fervently believe that the sentiment transmitted through the glittering lights can. It is within our reach to create harmony from dissimilarity, because this capacity to rationalize also leads to our increased ability to love, the cornerstone of any future thought of world peace.

– Lauren Feldman



What Can I Do?

Volunteer

The first and best way to support any endeavor is to look within yourself and provide that gift that only you can give – time. Each of you reading this has special talents that you can bring in support of PTWF's mission. Please contact us and donate your time and talent in support of peace.

Matching Gifts

Many companies offer matching gift programs that compound employee charitable contributions. Check the directory of matching gift companies to find out if your company will match your Pave the Way gift. If they do match, remember to follow your organization's matching gift process.

Donate

PTWF is a public charity under IRS Code 501C3. Your donations are tax deductible. Pay by credit card through PayPal by clicking on www.ptwf.org/Contribute or send a check to 253 West 35th Street, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10001-1907.

Do You Have Frequent Flyer Miles?

Through the generosity of several major airlines, PTWF can receive donations of frequent flyer miles. Call the individual airlines to find out how to donate your unused frequent flyer miles to PTWF in support of our mission.

Start a Local Chapter

Gestures of good will can also be done in a local area. Is it your passion to bring together the diverse groups in your community to achieve peace and harmony? Go to www.ptwf.com/chapters to find out how you can help pave the way to peace in your own area.



What Others Say About Us

"I think he (Gary Krupp) is one of the greatest people I have met in my life and I am 80. He has me 100 percent convinced he will succeed."

Dott. Rolando Clementoni- Senior Papal Chamberlain- Protocol Officer of the Apostolic Palace, Vatican

"Mr. and Mrs. Krupp formed Pave the Way Foundation to effect his vision of the commonality that exists between the world's religions. They use the common message of the true benevolence of each faith, to affect the overall goal that the religions, universally, must act to remove incorrect use as a tool of religious dogma and the intentional misinterpretations of holy text, to justify acts of violence, hatred and bigotry, within each religion. This, Mr. Krupp believes, is the cause of every major conflict on earth. How can such a monumental task be accomplished? Well sometimes the easiest and the simplest way will accomplish great things. Gary has proven this and, if his methodology becomes a format for dealing with the world's problems, I'm convinced that solutions to some of the international problems would be achieved."

Dr. Farouque Khan – Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Islamic Center of Long Island

"The efforts of tonight's honorees are a tribute to the Pave the Way Foundation's mission to unify people of all religions and improve the quality of life in communities throughout the world"

Michael R. Bloomberg – Mayor, City of New York

"It is my pleasure to send you this letter congratulating you on the important initiative to produce a documentary program on the Alexandria Summit and its Declaration, as well as the ongoing effort to ensure that religion is a force for peace in the Middle East and in our world, rather than a tool for violence and destruction. This message and this initiative are of urgent and crucial importance and I am grateful to you and for your commitment to bring them to as wide an audience as possible."

Rabbi David Rosen – Signatory to the Alexandria Declaration and International Director and Chief Rabbi of the American Jewish Committee

"Please keep up the good work of Pave the Way Foundation in your quest to end the use of religion for justifying acts of violence"

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin- Chief Rabbi of Efrat, Israel

Who Are We?

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Belgrade, Serbia:

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Yugoslavia
Aleksandar Simic

India:

Sunil Thomas

Athens, Greece:

Gloria Clementoni

Director of Volunteer Service

Linda Simpson

Director of Youth Services

Lauren Feldman



Special Note of Remembrance

Sadly, a true friend of mankind and a member of our PTWF family, Charles Ofria, has recently passed from this Earth.

Charles and his wife Alice, who also sadly passed away on October 31st 2007, donated the design work and hosting of our website. They came into PTWF when we needed them most and helped to educate the world to our most important mission.

A memorial fund has been set up on the Pave the Way Foundation website, www.ptwf.org/Alice. It was Charles and Alice's wish that donations to a worthy charity be given in lieu of flowers or cards. The money collected is funding Project Baby which provides basic necessities such as baby food, diapers and toys to welfare mothers in Jerusalem. Since the Ofrias were Christian, the Project Baby gifts will be distributed to Jewish and Muslim mothers.

Our prayers and our thoughts are with their families. They will be sorely missed. We take solace in the fact that the work of Pave the Way Foundation, which they both supported greatly, will go on. In that way, and in our loving memory of them, they will live on.

-Gary and Merry Krupp



Pave the Way Foundation's Gestures of Good Will:

Completed Projects:

- Took 148 Rabbis, Cantors and Jewish leaders to meet Pope John Paul II and say "thank you" on behalf of the Jewish people
- Concerts in Venice and Rockville Centre NY
- Arranged for the Vatican Museum to loan priceless Maimonides (13-century Jewish scholar) manuscripts to Israel Museum in Jerusalem
- Sponsored museum exhibit, "A Blessing to One Another-Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People"
- Helped with the acquisition of sophisticated medical equipment for Casa Sollievo Della Sofferenza in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy in order to improve the medical care for the poor in Europe and to carry on the benevolent work of St. Padre Pio.
- Trained Israeli airport security on how to recognize and properly treat religious officials
- Helped with acquisition and donation to the Vatican Library of the Bodmer Papyrus, the oldest written version of the Gospels of St. John and St. Luke including the oldest written version of the Lord's Prayer, dating back to 175-225 A.D.
- Arranged for translation of Wasatia manual to promote peace in the Palestinian areas

See more completed projects at www.ptwf.org/projects

Ongoing Projects:

- Digitizing the Vatican Library and the manuscripts of the Franciscans in Israel
- Finalizing the fundamental agreements between the state of Israel and The Holy See
- Moving to get the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem affirmed
- First International Congress on Religious Extremism
- Project Baby
- Peace and Prosperity Plan for the Palestinian areas
- Placing twin life-size monuments of Pope John Paul II in Krakow and Jerusalem to be created by renowned artist and Pave the Way Foundation Advisor, Sam Philipe

See more ongoing projects at www.ptwf.org/projects

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