

"A Room of Quiet" The Meditation Room, United Nations Headquarters

Opened in 1957

In the original plan for the new Headquarters, a tiny room had been provided as a place dedicated to silence, where people could withdraw into themselves, regardless of their faith, creed or religion, but Dag Hammarskjöld wanted something more dignified. In his efforts he was supported by a group, composed of Christians, Jews, and Muslems, the "Friends of the UN Meditation Room", who combined their efforts and provided the money for a room worthy of a world organization.

He banned chairs and replaced them with benches; in the center of the room he placed a six-and-half-ton rectangular block of iron ore, polished on the top and illuminated from above by a single spotlight. This block, which was a gift of the King of Sweden and a Swedish mining company, was the only symbol in the Room. Mr. Hammarskjöld described it as "...a meeting of the light, of the sky, and the earth... it is the altar to the God of all.... we want this massive altar to give the impression of something more than temporary...".

But the stone in the middle of the room has more to tell us. We may see it as an altar, empty not because there is no God, not because it is an altar to an unknown god, but because it is dedicated to the God whom man worships under many names and in many forms.

World Religion Day celebrates unity among diversity of faiths

Baha'is are urged to "Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship." One way they do this is through the commemoration of World Religion Day.

World Religion DayWorld Religion Day was initiated in 1950 by the <u>National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States</u>. The Assembly's purpose was to call attention to the harmony of spiritual principles and the oneness of the world's religions and to emphasize that religion is the motivating force for world unity.

As stated in Baha'i scripture: "religion should be the cause of love and agreement, a bond to unify all mankind for it is a message of peace and goodwill to man from God," and "Religion is the greatest of all means for the establishment of order in the world and for the peaceful contentment of all that dwell therein." (See <u>The Promise of World Peace</u>)

It is observed the third Sunday in January by Baha'is in the United States and increasingly by people around the globe, with interfaith discussions, conferences and other events that foster understanding and communication among the followers of all religions.

Following is a portion of a **Baha'i prayer** that is frequently read on World Religion Day:

O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony.

God! Raise aloft the banner of the oneness of mankind.

O God! Establish the Most Great Peace.

Cement Thou, O God, the hearts together.

O Thou kind Father, God! Gladden our hearts through the fragrance of Thy love. Brighten our eyes through the Light of Thy Guidance. Delight our ears with the melody of Thy Word, and shelter us all in the Stronghold of Thy Providence.

Thou art the Mighty and Powerful, Thou art the Forgiving and Thou art the One Who overlooketh the shortcomings of all mankind.

<u>OPRAH</u> – (audience of now 10s of millions)

The "Belief" youtube page from Oprah gives equal time in many videos to introduce all world religions. This includes Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Hindu, Sufism, Jainism, Buddhism, and more.

Oprah's sudden river of religious talk is not based on some newfound appreciation for Christianity. It's marketing spin for her new series, Belief, which the media pioneer describes as a "groundbreaking" television event exploring humanity's ongoing search to connect with something greater than ourselves.

A live ten-week webinar hosted by Oprah Winfrey and Eckhart Tolle, author of "A New Earth," began on the <u>Internet</u>. Both the book and the online course purport to be able to awaken you and our world to life's grand purpose.

Since Oprah's endorsement of Tolle's book, <u>3.5 million copies</u> of his spiritual self-help guide have been sent out to enlighten the minds of people around the globe. And <u>more than 2 million people in 125 countries</u> have already signed up for the worldwide web seminar

Morgan Freeman and National Geographic teamed up for the series called... THE STORY OF GOD

Each week they cover the ideas of Creation, Evil, miracles, Apocalypse, & Eternity from a world view. Using Archaeological sites, temple ruins, and sacred holy sites, he interviews people from all religions, all over the world as they tell the stories of ancient Gods, myths, faiths, doctrines, and theologies.

The quality of Video, breathtaking colorful scenery, and expert level of professional interviews is absolutely intriguing. Millions of people will watch this and be led away from Christ and Biblical faith from the confusion and human irrational thought of peaceful religious false unity.