

Gestures

NEWSLETTER OF THE



PAVE
the
WAY SM
FOUNDATION inc.

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Why Gestures Are Important and Why This Is So Urgent

*By Gary L. Krupp KC*SG, PTWF Founder and President and Meredith Krupp M.S., Co-Founder*

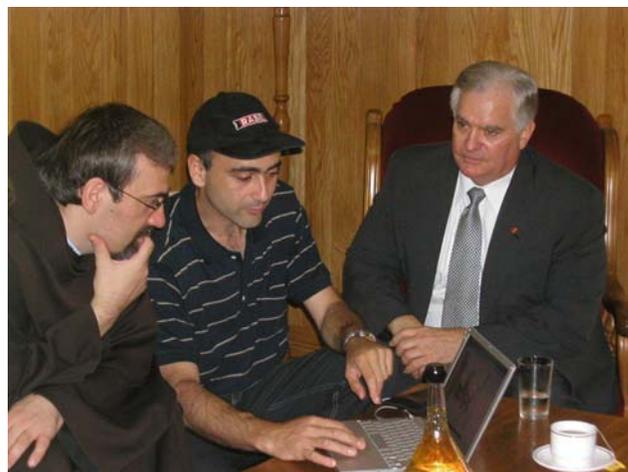
The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “gesture” as “something said or done by way of formality or courtesy, as a symbol or token, or for its effect on the attitudes of others”. Pave the Way Foundation sponsors gestures of good will from one religious group to another.

Through the ages, one proverb has remained a useful guide to human relations: You can catch more flies with sugar than you can with vinegar. Tough talk, threats and tanks may serve to restrain an evildoer but will never result in any long-term peace. Likewise, endless talk and negotiations with insincere appeasement and hollow agreements have not rid the world of its conflict.

A gesture is different than other actions taken throughout the ages in attempts to improve worldwide situations. A gesture is a concrete action that creates a beneficial effect that can be seen and felt by both the recipient and the giver. A gesture can be large or small. If you graciously open a door for a feeble grandmother or a 250-pound wrestler, you have done a very good thing. All of a sudden, the giver and receiver become more real to each other. You are no longer a faceless stranger; you are the person who opened

the door. At the same time, communication is improved. A “thank you” or “hello” is a very likely byproduct of the gesture. And miraculously, each will start to like the other just a little bit more.

Now take that simple example and place it on a broader scale. At Pave the Way Foundation, we perform and sponsor gestures of good will from one group of people to another, which creates better understanding between the groups and the individuals in those groups. Most often we concentrate on religious groups as we have come to realize that religion is being used as a tool to justify and wage war. It is not correct to say that violence, conflict and war are caused by religion. It is



Digitizing of the Franciscan manuscripts in Israel

correct to say that evil people with private agendas are using religion and victimizing religious people to cause almost every conflict on earth today. Through our gestures that demonstrate the true benevolent character of religion, we are taking away religion as a weapon from those who would use it to create destruction. God is on our side.

Many non-profit organizations exist that want to do something to improve conditions on this planet. They work to raise awareness of various issues and then demand contribution from their donor base and the broad public. It's commendable that so many want to help and this is no criticism of their efforts. Yet the conflicts go on. There is rarely an olive branch offered or any positive incentive to help to move the issue.

Understanding how this mechanism works one must make a decision early on – are we interested in raising money or are we interested in identifying a problem and eliminating it? Pave the Way Foundation decided that the latter is our real goal in service of our mission. We continue to concentrate all of our efforts on diagnosing the cause of conflicts and disagreement and then using the benevolent warmth generated by a positive gesture to open the door and to establish trust. With communication established, we can help to facilitate actual concrete solutions to conflicts, as we have done in many instances already. You may never have heard of Pave the Way Foundation as we do not advertise, we get precious little media attention, we just get the job done. The news media is far more interested in the creation of more conflicts than a quiet and peaceful resolution. Look at your morning paper. You'll find a plethora of reports of death, destruction and mayhem, sexual scandals, fraud and corruption, conflict and no hope. Yet for every horrible incident the paper reported, there were thousands of people who did the right thing, who opened the door for the elderly lady, who took a casserole to a grieving friend, who offered a shoulder to cry on, who taught a child to ride a bicycle or who sponsored a major gesture of good will through Pave the Way Foundation.

“Yet for every horrible incident the paper reported, there were thousands of people who did the right thing...”



Initiating the Gift of the Digitizing Project to the Vatican Library

And why the urgency? When we analyze current world conflicts and study historical conflicts we can see how private agendas have successfully used religion to pit one group against another and fuel conflicts. Some of these conflicts have been instigated to gain economic and political superiority. The key thing to know is that man, created in the image of the Creator, will not naturally murder other people. This is an artificial condition, antipathetic to the true nature of man and religion. No one was born to stick a bayonet in the

face of another warrior but many have been conditioned to do this. This condition is created by false teachings of religion, by extreme poverty and degradation intentionally created and perpetuated and by harsh and brutal treatment. These methods are not natural but they are effective as we see every time a suicide bomber takes his own life for no purpose than to kill and maim his fellow human beings. In the past, individuals were threatened. In today's world, with the availability of weapons of mass destruction and the proven willingness to use them, we are now approaching a threat to world wide survival.

Yet there is hope. We can all do something. I hope that each person reading this will do something. I invite you to help the Pave the Way Foundation in our mission. –Gary L. Krupp KC*SG



A Gesture of Thanks to Pope John Paul II

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

This is the story of a Pave the Way Foundation project that began as a simple gesture, a token of appreciation to a special man, and became an historical event in the lives of the Jewish people and the Catholic Church.

Gary Krupp, Founder and President of PTWF stated, “Our foundation’s mission is to bring together men of good will, no matter what their religious background, and to ruthlessly tear down any wall that stops this from happening...Pope John Paul II had been doing just that for decades.” Mr. Krupp pointed out that this Pope had a very long history of supporting the rights of the Jewish people and of speaking out against anti-Semitism, which he characterized as “opposed to the very spirit of Christianity”. As his failing health became more and more apparent, it became clear that it was time to finally say “thank you”, a simple gesture that had never been done before.

On January 18, 2005, Pave the Way Foundation brought approximately 160 people, including Jewish leaders, Rabbis and Cantors (singers) from around the world, the largest Jewish group to ever meet with a sitting Pope, to a private audience in the Vatican’s Apostolic Palace. The purpose of this mission was to recognize the Holy Father’s contribution towards religious reconciliation with the Jewish people and the State of Israel, and to bring a message of gratitude. The audience also included PTWF board members and advisors of many religions.

This event was an experience that changed the lives of all who attended, for no matter the religious beliefs of the attendees, one thing was certain – everyone knew that he or she was blessed by being in the presence of a holy man.

Articles about this event appeared in over 200 newspapers worldwide but one eyewitness account by a member of the PTWF board of directors truly captured the essence of the moment. Here are excerpts from the article “Rabbis Bless Pope in the Vatican”, written by Harvey Passes D.D.S and published in *Dental Economics Magazine*.



Gary L. Krupp Addressing Pope John Paul II

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 every day "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.

“I am a dentist who practices in Great Neck and resides in Manhasset. I have just had the experience of a lifetime. Dreams are rarely this good. Imagine being in the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican where there is a worldwide delegation of Jews seated in the audience waiting for a private audience with His Holiness John Paul II. It is to be a meeting of gratitude...and thanks to His Holiness for his defense of Jews before his papacy as well as during it. Under his pontificate the Vatican recognized the State of Israel by exchanging ambassadors. Pope John Paul II was the first Pope since Saint Peter to visit a synagogue. He also visited the Western Wall in Jerusalem and

left an inscribed message within the wall asking for forgiveness. He has also made it a sin to be anti-Semitic. He has been a friend to the Jewish people and has tried to bridge the ancient gap. Pave The Way Foundation would bring a worldwide delegation of 100 rabbis, 12 cantors and Jewish leaders to offer prayers of thanks and gratitude to His Holiness. The Pope happily agreed to this request.”

“The marble floors of the palace stretch to highly polished ancient wood and marble walls, which climb at least 40 feet. About halfway up, these walls are adorned with the most incredible frescoes created some 500 years ago perhaps by the likes of Michelangelo, Raphael or other legendary artists. The sheer size of the artistry boggles the mind. I am sitting in the front row with my childhood friend, Gary Krupp. I never would have imagined that such an event would take place with my participation. My friend is making good on a dream, his dream of peace on earth and goodwill to all men. This is a story that spans 800 years in the making. It would read like a novel except that it is true. It all happened.”



Angelica Berrie, Elliot Hershberg, Meredith and Gary Krupp with Pope John Paul II

“On Jan. 18 at 11:30 a.m., we assembled within the Vatican's Apostolic Palace to meet Pope John Paul II. Gary Krupp presented our speech first... Afterwards, as a thunderous applause erupted from the audience, I could see that Pope John Paul II was visibly moved. He applauded and smiled. He looked at each and every one of us. A feeling of love and brotherhood flowed throughout the room. Then he responded, ending his speech with the words, ‘Upon all of

you, I evoke the abundant blessing of the Almighty and in particular the gift of peace. Shalom Aleichem.’ More joyful thunderous applause filled the room.”

“Then a few members of the board of directors and I presented the Pope a gift. It was a glass sculpture of two open palm hands holding the globe. It signified a humanitarian award to the Pope. He graciously accepted it. Three rabbis stood up and approached him. They spoke a prayer and blessed him. This was the first time that anyone in the Vatican could remember the Pope being blessed and not the other way around. He then blessed our congregation. Twelve cantors began to sing songs of prayer filling the room with optimism and hope. The Pope physically extended his hand to members of Pave the Way Foundation. One by one we shook his hand as we looked into each other's eyes.”

“Then something wonderful happened. Pope John Paul II asked the entire congregation to step forward so that he could shake their hands as well. Members of the papal household started to hand out gifts to all of us. His Holiness was in a very good mood and wanted to share this feeling with all of us. It was then that I remembered the Pave the Way Foundation slogan, "Embrace Our Similarities, Savor Our Differences."

“What an experience. This is a journey worth taking.” –Dr. Harvey Passes D.D.S.



Project Baby

By Linda Simpson, PTWF Director of Volunteer Services

Project Baby is an exciting new initiative based on the most fundamental principles of Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), the idea that concrete gestures of good will between the faiths accomplish more than simple dialog, and that there is a silent majority of peace-loving people who share the true benevolent message common to all faiths.

In response to this simple, yet monumental idea, PTWF has initiated this charitable program to address a vital need and to provide a way for individuals, churches, synagogues and mosques to contribute to improving relationships between



religious groups by improving on basic living conditions for the neediest among us. Social services in the Middle East are generally lacking in resources and sometimes fail to provide the poorest mothers with the most basic needs for their infants. Supplies that many of us take for granted and assume are readily available for poor families, like diapers, baby formula and even the simplest toys, are not regularly distributed or available.

PTWF has responded to this alarming situation in a unique way. We are soliciting donations to purchase emergency baby supply

Distribution of Gift Baskets in Jerusalem

baskets from mosques to help Christian and Jewish mothers, from churches to help Muslim and Jewish mothers and from synagogues to help Christian and Muslim mothers. Groups and individual donors have the opportunity to reach out of the boundaries of their own religious communities and address this most vital and unmet need for other families in the Holy Land.

The Islamic Center of Long Island in Westbury New York, a Sunni Muslim Mosque, has provided a financial gift, which was used to provide baby baskets to needy Jewish and Christian mothers in Jerusalem.

Richard Kandel, member of Pave the Way Foundation's Board of Directors contributed to help Muslim and Christian mothers.

The Cathedral of St. Paul in Birmingham, Alabama also contributed to Project Baby. "Because of our mandate to love our neighbor, we are compelled to respond in many varied ways to these ills," says the Reverend Richard E. Donohoe, Rector. "To assist the feeding of children in Jewish and Islamic cultures is a wonderful sign that authenticates our vision. The Cathedral of St. Paul, ever striving for peace in our world, believes that dealing with poverty at the grass roots level is the most effective way we can address many of the illnesses of our world."

The first gifts were distributed in May 2007 by PTWF founders, Gary and Meredith Krupp, along with PTWF advisor and renowned Israeli sculptor Sam Philipe, and Under Secretary for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, Father Angelo Ison OFM. Both are Special Advisors to PTWF in Jerusalem. Father Peter Vasko OFM, President of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, helped by locating the Muslim and Christian women in need.

For more information, see http://ptwf.org/Projects/Peace/Moms_gift.htm

You can help provide desperately needed supplies and improve relations between religious groups. Speak with religious leaders or congregations in your area about contributing to Project Baby. All the funds donated for Project Baby go

directly to purchasing and distributing the baskets. The cost of a six-month supply of baby formula, diapers and some toys is approximately \$525.00 per family. –Linda Simpson



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.



Who Are We?

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Rolando Clementoni, KCSG
Jerzy Kluger
Gen. Piero Laporta
Maria Grazia Siliato

Jerusalem, Israel:

Sam Philipe
Fr. Angelo Ison OFM

Krakow, Poland:

Ms. Beata Czekaj

Belgrade, Serbia:

HRH Princess Elizabeth of
Yugoslavia
Aleksandar Simic

India:

Sunil Thomas

Director of Volunteer Service

Linda Simpson



Why I Support Pave the Way Foundation

This is a regular feature of the Gestures Newsletter. In each issue, we focus on one Pave the Way Foundation supporter to find out the reason why he or she chooses to contribute time, money or both to this cause. This month, we talked with Doyle Mills of Clearwater, Florida.

“I grew up in an area fraught with prejudice, the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. Yet my early influences steered me toward tolerance, love and understanding. My mother taught me to respect all people. My father showed tolerance of others by example. And one of my early teachers, the Rev. Jimmy Grayson, taught me that we are all created equal. Now as a Scientologist for almost twenty years while still being active in Christian churches (I am the volunteer public relations director for an Apostolic church in Pinellas Park, Florida and I’m a member of Presbyterians for Peace in Dunedin, Florida), I have seen intolerance and lack of understanding all around me. September 11th 2001 should have taught any caring individual that we cannot just stand on the sidelines praying or hoping that conditions will get better but rather that each of us had better DO something about it.”

“I met Gary Krupp in 2001, before Pave the Way Foundation began. He helped me with a documentary film project and demonstrated his true caring and benevolent nature. I suppose now that this too was a “gesture”. When he and Merry founded PTWF I became very interested. I started out by selling tickets to a PTWF fundraising banquet. More importantly I was able to inform other people who then became involved in the organization. As a writer, I have been able to contribute in numerous ways, including award inscriptions, press releases, articles and parts of this newsletter. I will never forget the day before

Thanksgiving, 2004, when Gary called and said ‘January 18th, you’re coming to Rome; we’re going to meet the Pope.’ This was the Papal audience written up elsewhere in this newsletter. I was very fortunate to be part of this audience and to meet the great man who, I’m confident, will soon be known as Saint John Paul II. Moreover, I am truly blessed to be part of the Pave the Way Foundation. This world will be a better place for our children tomorrow because of the work we do today.”



Doyle Mills with Gary L. Krupp KC*SG and Pope John Paul II, January 2005

“And I would like to thank my lovely wife, Kelly, and my son Logan who have had to put up with my late nights of work on some writing project or jetting off to Rome, New York or Los Angeles to meet the Krupps for some project. My most sincere thanks also go out to the Krupps, who have truly sacrificed to get this job done.” –Doyle Mills

Would you like to have a regular newsletter like this for your business, church or non-profit organization?

Email newslettermill@letterboxes.org

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.

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

www.ptwf.org

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