

Gestures

NEWSLETTER OF THE



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2	On the Road with PTWF
3	What is PTWF?
3	The News Media and the Future
4	PTWF Arranges Maimonides Loan
5	What Can I do?
5	Who Are We
6	Why I Support PTWF
7	Gary L. Krupp Nominated for Guru Nanak Award
8	PTWF Projects

2002 – Gary L. Krupp Delivers

In 2002, New York City Firefighter Tom Fenech asked Gary Krupp for a special favor. A cross had been cut from the last steel beam to be removed



Gary and Meredith Krupp Deliver Cross to Pope John Paul II

from the wreckage of the World Trade Center towers. He wanted the cross to be personally delivered to



Cross Made from WTC Steel

Pope John Paul II. Gary and Meredith Krupp handed the cross to His Holiness in May of 2002 in an emotional audience.

In gratitude, the Pope sent rosaries for Fireman Fenech and his wife.

Tom Fenech commented that everyone who visited Ground Zero made all kinds of promises but Gary Krupp really delivered.



Gary L. Krupp and Tom Fenech at the World Trade Center site; From L-R –Viewing pictures from the visit with the Pope, The rosaries, A heartfelt hug of thanks

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PAVING THE WAY – ON THE ROAD

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

When I look back over our travels, the number of appointments and unique people whom we have met never ceases to amaze me. It would be impossible to include all of the wonderful encounters we've had, but I would like to give you a few highlights of our most recent mission, September 10-27, 2007.



Clockwise from Bottom Right: Archbishop Stefan, Aleksandar Simic, Gjoko Gjorgjevski (Church of Macedonia), Radmila and Stevan Simic, Gary L. and Meredith Krupp, Gligor Tashkovich (Minister of Foreign Investment for Macedonia)

between the Macedonian Orthodox Archbishop and the Serbian Orthodox Simics in order to discuss ways to bring the two churches closer together. Aleksandar was appointed special emissary to represent the Serbian church in this matter. He hoped that this meeting would help to “pave the way” to better relations between the two churches. Aleksandar stated that his unprecedented conversation with the Archbishop during dinner left him extremely optimistic. Historic progress was in the making.

This was an historic moment for all in attendance. Here was the Macedonian Orthodox leader and his staff sitting next to members of the Serbian Church, while across the table were Gary and I, two Jews breaking bread in a monastery on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the Jewish High Holidays, while our hosts were toasting us with “L’chaim” and “Happy New Year.” You really had to be there to believe it...but quite frankly, it was just another Pave the Way Foundation moment.

From there we traveled to Belgrade, Serbia for one day with the Simics who introduced us to many government officials including the Deputy Prime Minister.

After the Balkans we spent a very productive week in Israel. As many of you know, PTWF is working on many different projects, and that becomes even more apparent by the variety of people with whom we had meetings. During our first few days in Israel, we met with the Minister and Consul General of the Republic of the Philippines, the Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East, the Greek and the Armenian Patriarchs, as well as numerous

From New York we traveled first to Rome then we were off to Skopje, Macedonia on day three. (Did you say “Where?” like I did?) Macedonia is a country on the Balkan Peninsula in SE Europe, which gained independence after the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1991 that also created the new countries of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia. Skopje is the capital and Macedonia’s largest city. Once there, we were joined by the PTWF Serbian director, Aleksandar Simic, and his parents. The sole purpose of our visit was to arrange a dinner meeting



Archbishop Stefan and Aleksandar Simic

influential Palestinian leaders and businessmen, and important Israeli officials, all of whom are involved in ongoing PTWF projects. Many of these leaders have become close friends and allies. It is important to note that PTWF is the only organization in the world to have a personal and affectionate relationship with the Latin, Armenian, and Greek Patriarchs, the Catholic and Episcopal Churches, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem (Islamic) and the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. This is quite an accomplishment and is key to our success.

Back to Rome, we met with PTWF advisors Dr. Jerzy Kluger, Pope John Paul II's close childhood friend, Dr. Rolando Clemtoni, and General Piero LaPorta, to further discuss PTWF projects and the setting up of a legal and formal standing entity for PTWF in Italy (and Israel), with its own operating boards and fundraising responsibilities. During the remaining days, we met with many Vatican officials and friends, including Archbishop Farina, the Vatican's Librarian and Archivist, Msgr. Pasini, the new Prefect of the Vatican Library and Msgr Zagnoli and Francisco Ricardi, two directors of the Vatican Museum and Fr. Norbert Hoffman, head of the Commission on Relations with the Jewish People. In conclusion, when asked if I am in awe of the people we meet, I respond, "No, people are people – but I am in awe of the fact that they want to spend time with us and embrace our cause." Until next time... – Meredith Krupp M.S.



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.



The News Media and the Future of This Planet

By Gary L. Krupp KC*SG, PTWF Founder

In our struggle to learn what is happening in the world around us, we have relied upon print, broadcast and now Internet media. As media moguls gobble up the competition, we need to step back and take a careful look at the job they are doing. Rightfully so, as free people, we hold sacred the right of freedom of the press. However, in today's world, some appear to be using freedom of the press as a shield against criticism when held accountable for the delivery of information. As their "customers" we have a right to demand accuracy and balance. Moreover, we deserve to have some positive content in our reported news.

When we open the morning paper or watch the evening news, we are struck with the fact that almost nothing reported is really newsworthy. Robberies, murders, celebrity arrests, rape, fires, explosions and the like do nothing to enhance our well-being or teach us anything. This type of sensationalism is simply a report card of human stupidity, which showcases the level of depravity whose bottom limits are constantly pushed lower and lower. When the news network spends hours on end reporting on a Lindsay Lohan, what message are we sending to our children? When days upon days are spent reporting a Columbine massacre, how does this benefit us? And isn't it likely that other troubled teens will see this and commit the same heinous crime, out of a craving for publicity? Doesn't the media bear some responsibility when this crime is repeated?

When the news reports the capture of a terrorist cell through cell phone chatter or an informant, does this not alert the enemy to be careful and to avoid cell phone use or to take precautions against spies? International media reported that terrorists were planning to use small liquid mixtures to create a bomb on board a plane. Aren't we inviting them to invent some new device as we search millions of innocent passengers for liquids? In WWII, the public and the media understood the phrase "a slip of the lip can sink a ship." Aiding and abetting the enemy is a crime. Does the public's right to know outweigh the state's responsibility to guarantee safety and security of millions of its citizens?

Freedom of press is vital. Yet we, John & Jane Q. Public, have some rights also. It's time for a bill of rights of information dissemination to be instituted which can serve as a guide for minimum standards for the media industry to follow universally. We have a rating system for the movie industry – why not one for the media industry?

Let's consider creating an international award of excellence that recognizes those media entities that meet or exceed the standards of the people's bill of rights of dissemination of information. In the past, some have agreed with this and tried positive news and failed. This is because everyone did not follow suit. For this notion to work, all media must follow the people's bill of rights of information dissemination. The public's primitive appetite for violence and depravity is so ingrained that a universal, across-the-board change in reporting will be required to succeed. We need the media industry to be part of the solution rather than the problem and to recognize that it has a moral obligation to become part of the team to work towards global peace rather than fuel conflict.

As we all sing Kumbaya and other songs of peace, greet each other with Shalom and Salaam and pray for peace, let us gather the courage to really diagnose the problem and take concrete steps to really achieve peace through action. Mark Twain had it right: "If you don't read the newspaper, you are uninformed; if you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed."

On a positive note, there are many fine, high-quality media industry leaders who do make an effort to positively disseminate information. Unfortunately, they are the exception rather than the rule. – Gary L. Krupp KC*SG

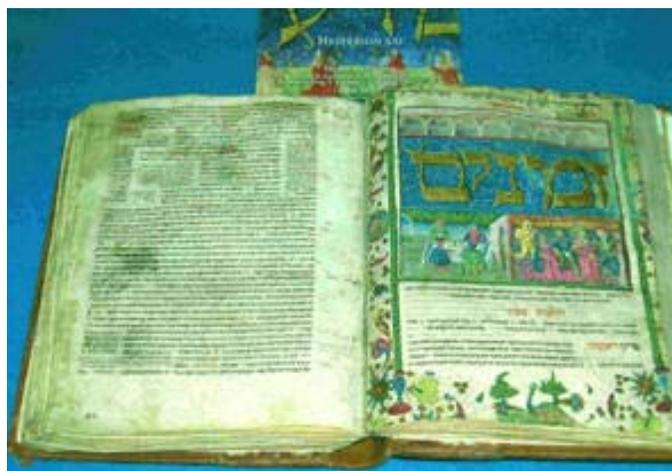


PTWF Arranges for Loan of Priceless Maimonides Manuscripts

By Linda Simpson, PTWF Director of Volunteer Services

Moses Maimonides (1135-1204) was an enlightened Rabbi, philosopher and physician, whose writings are revered by Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Though he died more than 800 years ago, his writings and messages of reconciliation, born of understanding the similarities between the three faiths, are relevant in today's troubled world. He wrote in both Hebrew and Arabic and his manuscripts highlight the origins and convergence of these faiths. Some of these important historical and theological works, housed for hundreds of years in the Vatican Library, have never been available for public viewing.

Gary Krupp of Pave the Way Foundation initiated an historic mission of prominent Jewish scholars to the Vatican Library to view the original manuscripts. The Library was opened specifically for this delegation, in large part dispelling the long-held notion that the Vatican was hiding these historic Hebrew manuscripts.



13th-Century Maimonides Manuscript

Pave the Way then sponsored the first ever exhibit of manuscripts by Moses Maimonides and other ancient Jewish scholars from the Vatican Library by procuring a loan to the Israel Museum in the fall of 2005, as part of the museum's 40th anniversary celebration.

This project, initiated by Pave the Way, was the beginning of a unique relationship with the Vatican Library. The benevolent attitude of the Holy See in permitting such an event surprised and enlightened many of the Jewish participants and enabled them to report on the Vatican's openness for religious learning. This project exemplifies one of our main

goals, which is to eliminate obstacles that have inhibited cooperation among the diverse faiths within the Holy Land, and draw them closer through dynamic and meaningful gestures of good will. In addition, this has enabled us to procure the loans of other important religious artifacts and manuscripts. As a direct result of our work to “pave the way” to this wonderful new relationship, the Israel Museum lent a Rembrandt and a Botticelli to the Basilica of St. Peter for the 600th-Anniversary celebration.

These unprecedented cultural exchanges between all faiths help foster and solidify stronger relationships and fortify the bonds between religions through significant and educational gestures of good will. Such action furthers the possibility of future cooperative loans of religious manuscripts and artifacts to and from the Holy Land, which will result in enhanced worldwide learning. – 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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Gloria Clementoni

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 feature Father Murray Watson of the Catholic Diocese of London, Ontario, Canada.

Several years ago, a local rabbi kindly invited me to preach at his synagogue during Sabbath services. I was both honoured and humbled by the invitation, and asked him if there was something in particular he wanted me to address, or whether I would be best just to focus on the parashah (weekly Torah passage) that was assigned for that Sabbath. He grinned and said, “Oh, that’s the Sabbath when we focus on the figure of Amalek.” He paused, and then he said, “...you know, when we reflect on all the enemies of the Jewish people down through the ages.”

Many rabbinic texts speak about Amalek as an almost timeless figure, a sinister prototype whose hatred of Judaism is “reincarnated” in every generation, so that “Amalek” has become synonymous with every Gentile tyrant or group that has ever oppressed Jews anywhere or attempted to annihilate them. The Persians, the Syrian Greeks, the Romans, European Christians, the Nazis, the Communists, modern-day racists—anyone, anywhere who has ever seriously harmed the Jewish people falls under the umbrella category of Amalek, and each generation is solemnly enjoined to “remember Amalek.” Thousands of years of Jewish history have, sadly, borne out the wisdom of that admonition. However comfortable and apparently carefree Jewish life may seem, however assimilated Jews may be in the larger culture around them, events have shown how quickly anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism can surface, and how swiftly Jews can become scapegoats and victims of unspeakable violence.

Initially, I was very uncomfortable, knowing that I would be speaking after such a negatively-charged text. But, as the weeks passed, I began to think that perhaps there was no better Shabbat for a Christian like me to speak. My Jewish listeners had every reason to be mistrustful and skeptical about me. I was a stranger. Many among them were Holocaust survivors, or their family members were. They witnessed firsthand the evils perpetrated by those who were apparently baptized Christians. They knew that the destruction of roughly six million Jews had taken place in countries with distinguished Christian pedigrees, and centuries of “Christian culture.” To many of them—and to those who knew twentieth-century European history—Christianity and Amalek overlapped to a truly horrific extent.

But I also hoped that (perhaps in a very small way) my presence, my love, my respect and my commitment to the Jewish-Christian relationship could represent a tiny step in a different direction. Perhaps if I spoke from the heart, they would see that today there are many Christians of various denominations and stripes who are repulsed and shamed by those events of our history, and who seek instead to build bridges of understanding, compassion, healing and collaboration. It was my hope and prayer that perhaps a day would come when it would seem utterly ludicrous for a Jewish congregation to invite a Christian speaker on the Sabbath of Amalek, when that relationship would be so positive and so unshakeable that Jews would no longer need to fear or suspect Christians, when the centuries-old experience of Christian persecution and hatred would be matched by an equally long experience of love and respect demonstrated by Christians. Although that day has not yet arrived, I hope we are at least moving in that direction.

If, as many scholars say, Judaism is a faith more of right action (orthopraxis) than of right belief (orthodoxy), then the solution for people like me must be to translate our thoughts and words into action. As a Christian, my love and esteem for my Jewish sisters and brothers must be something that goes beyond pleasant phrases and nice speeches; I must convert it



Father Murray Watson, PTWF Supporter

into actions—into gestures that say more than my words can. This was perhaps the great genius of the late Pope John Paul II, a former actor who had a profound understanding of the power of gesture and symbol to touch the heart and change people’s ways of thinking. Over and over again—and particularly during the year 2000, during his pilgrimage to the Holy Land—John Paul demonstrated his commitment to Jewish-Catholic rapprochement with simple, genuine actions that communicated respect, kindness, repentance and love. They are images that remain engraved in the minds and hearts of all those who witnessed them.

It is with gestures, large and small, that the Jewish-Christian relationship is growing and changing with each passing month. And it is by means of gestures—grand, bold, beautiful gestures—that the Pave the Way Foundation has chosen to build up that relationship and strengthen it for the future. Certainly, there is a time for words, and we can never underestimate the value of education in transforming people’s minds and hearts. But it is gestures that speak when words cannot, or when words are inadequate, and which are the road markers on the journey toward shalom, to which God has called us as His peoples. May God bless the work of the Pave the Way Foundation and make it fruitful for all of us who seek that world of justice, peace and chesed [faithful loving-kindness], a world worthy of Him whose Name we jointly bear. –Father Murray Watson

Father Murray Watson is a Catholic priest of the diocese of London, Ontario, Canada. He has studied in Rome, Jerusalem and Dublin, and lectures in Biblical studies at St. Peter’s Seminary in London. For more than ten years, he has been actively involved in Jewish-Christian dialogue and education, helping to establish Canada’s first Centre for Catholic-Jewish Learning in 2006.



Gary Krupp Nominated for Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize

The Guru Nanak Interfaith Prize, from Hofstra University of Hempstead, New York, will be awarded biannually beginning in 2008 to enhance awareness of the critical role of religious dialogue in the pursuit of peace as well as to provide direct support for the furtherance of such activities. Pave the Way Foundation founder, Gary L. Krupp, has been nominated for his outstanding ecumenical work.

The award will be chosen by a distinguished panel of judges comprised of religious leaders, academics and individuals known for their commitment to interfaith dialogue. The panel will consider the recent and career accomplishments of nominees with a focus on singling out those individuals or groups which have demonstrated extraordinary leadership, courage and a capacity for inspiring in others a willingness to embrace the vulnerability that is the key to true religious dialogue.

Gary L. Krupp has been the recipient of several significant international awards, including the Jerusalem medal from the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, Al Aqsa Fatwa from the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, the Tree of Life award from the Jewish National Fund, the Vatican’s Servitor Pacis Award (Servant of Peace), Humanitarian Award given by The New Seminary United Nations, Nostre Aetate award awarded by Sacred Heart Universities Center for Christian Jewish Understanding, and the Medal of Good works from the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George.

Mr. Krupp was inducted as an Officer Brother in the Order of St. John by order of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Additionally, Mr. Krupp holds the distinction of being knighted by two Popes. On July 31st 2000, he was knighted by Pope John Paul II as a Knight Commander of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great. On January 15th 2007, Pope Benedict XVI raised his status to Commander with a Silver Star. Mr. Krupp is the only Jewish man in all history to be granted this status.

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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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