The Jewish Knight and Pope Benedict XVI In Washington

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

A few weeks before the Pope’s arrival in the US, Gary and I were invited to represent Pave the Way Foundation at an inter-religious meeting with Pope Benedict XVI in Washington. Naturally we were excited and honored to receive the invitation, making PTWF the only non-sectarian group invited to join representatives of non-Christian faiths. But the wonders of our trip didn’t start with this meeting. Our odyssey began about a week before when board member David Hauser, realizing the importance of our invitation, decided to take action and...
alerted the media that a Jewish Papal Knight from Long Beach was asked to attend a meeting with the Pope in Washington. He explained that Gary is the only Jewish man in all history to be knighted by two Popes and that Gary is a Knight’s Commander with a Silver Star of the Pontifical Order of St. Gregory the Great. What followed was a media blitz that had New York television channels 2, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12 ringing our doorbell, cameras in hand, and reporters from local radio stations and the New York Post and Newsday calling for interviews. The media attention followed us to Washington.

Wednesday April 16, the day before our Papal audience, we went to Washington with Diane and Dave Hauser, who graciously offered to drive us. Upon arrival in the late afternoon, we had an appointment to meet friends for dinner- Rony Levy, an Orthodox Israeli Jew, Father Peter Vasco, a Franciscan priest, who works with Rony in Israel, and Hani Abraham, a Palestinian Muslim and his cousin, joined Dave and Diane and Gary and I (two protestants and two more Jews) at a Lebanese restaurant. Before sitting down, WOR channel 9 News, came to the restaurant to interview the group about how the Pope’s visit affected various religions. During dinner, as we all talked and laughed, and enjoyed new foods together, I realized that we were truly experiencing the PTWF’s slogan of, “embracing the similarities and savoring the differences.” Two American Jews, a Catholic priest, two Protestants, two Palestinian Muslims and an Orthodox Jew from Israel broke bread together, while speaking Hebrew, Arabic and English at the same table.

Our agenda for Thursday, the day were to greet the Pope, had been mapped out for us in a detailed letter sent to each of us well in advance. Because he was to be in the presence of the Pope, Gary was asked to wear his Papal uniform. Officially the uniform includes a sword but at the request of the Secret Service, this time the sword had to stay at home. At 2:00 PM the invitees were asked to assemble on the 11th floor of our hotel, in order to go through security and assemble together for our bus ride to the John Paul II Cultural Center. About 150 religious leaders of the Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Jain, and Buddhist faiths filled the room, each wearing symbols and the dress of their particular religion. There was an atmosphere of anticipation, friendship and hope as we greeted old friends, introduced ourselves to new friends, boarded the bus, and finally arrived at the John Paul II Cultural Center for our meeting aptly titled, “Peace Our Hope”. The Pope was due to arrive at 6:30 PM; however, true to his German heritage, he arrived a half-hour earlier, causing everyone to scramble to their seats before the Pope entered the room. Although he had a tedious schedule that day, he looked refreshed and energized as he entered the room with a big smile on his face.

The program began as the Pope addressed the audience. His speech represented an emotional outreach for an expansion of inter-religious dialogue and healing, and was warmly received by the representatives of the faiths. Next, he was given presents, which symbolized “Gifts of Peace” of Judaism, Islam, Jainism, Buddhism and Hinduism, and greeted leaders, representing the religions in the audience. The smile never left his face. The Jewish representatives were then asked to join the Pope for a private gathering in another room, where he read a special Passover message and took a group picture….and I must add, with great pleasure that Gary and I stood next to him in the picture and we were able to personally greet him after the photograph was taken. What an honor, and the smile never left my face, as well!
The next morning, with the excitement of the previous day’s events still fresh in our minds, we received yet another surprise. Our request to meet with Jay Hein, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, was granted, and we were summoned to the White house office that very morning. Mr. Hein was very interested in PTWF, and expressed interest in doing projects with us in the very near future. Needless to say, we all had smiles on our faces as we drove back to New York!

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 ONLY SOLUTION TO TERRORISM

By Gary L. Krupp KG●SG, PTWF Founder

There are people on this Earth right now who believe it is their religious duty to annihilate millions of innocent people and take their own life in the process. They expect to be blessed and rewarded for this murderous and suicidal act. How did the universal religious message of love, compassion and hope, common to all religions, become perverted to promote murder and suicide? Moreover, how can religion, which forbids murder and suicide, be used as justification for killing millions in cold blood?

Unless something is done, these terrorists WILL eventually gain access to weapons of mass destruction and millions will die at their hands. Governments are taking extraordinary actions to try and prevent a terror attack. Billions are spent, and lives have been spared. Yet, we are far from safe. Terror looms like a black cloud on us every single day. Each person who wakes up in the morning faces a potential death at the hands of religious extremists every single day, whether or not they board an aircraft, bus or train. Our news media accentuates the negative and may even further stir up the tensions that can lead us to the next catastrophe. Mankind's very existence is in peril so we must use the tools at our disposal to stop this insanity.

Religious extremism, which can exist in any religion, is the tail that wags the dog. When a supposed Muslim kills himself and others in a café or an avowed Christian bombs an abortion clinic, killing doctors and nurses, it’s the same thing – religious extremism. When one of these events occur, the true members of those religions typically remain silent, while the holy name of their religion is sullied and degraded by the acts of a few misguided individuals.
Governments cannot handle this problem. A government’s only solution is to curtail everyone’s freedom. With a possibility that terrorists may use liquid explosives, even children are not allowed to bring bottled water on an airplane. The theory is that if everybody is stopped from doing something, the terrorists are stopped as well. When this happens, the terrorists win because their acts have stripped the freedoms away from everyone. The end result of governmental attempts to stop terrorism can only be martial law, police states in which freedom is severely curtailed in a last-ditch effort to achieve safety. Yet the terrorists will still find a new way to kill.

Should religious people just pray that our deity will provide the solution? Prayer may help but the last time the almighty cleaned out the evildoers his way, only those with the foresight to build an ark lived to see another sunrise. If anyone is going pray for a solution, it should be to pray for the strength, the intellect and the skill, so that each person can do his part to make world peace through his own actions.

The solution to terrorism, religious extremists and world conflicts is in our hands today. Governments cannot do it but the religious people of Earth can. It’s the religions themselves who have created these zealots, then left it up to governments to deal with the mess they create. It is time for the religions to become loud allies in the battle instigated by their very creations, and not leave it up to governments alone to respond to the effects. They must speak out broadly to their own members, to members of other religions and to the secular public. It must be clearly known and understood that persons who have used the holy name of religion for violence and death are not affiliated with the religion whose name they have stolen and perverted. Those who use the name of religion for malicious purposes must be told to stop. The Internet and email are powerful communication tools and should be used along with our traditional print media as well as radio and television, even billboards and leaflets.

It is the duty of the true pious in each faith to do their part in ending the senseless killing and violence by holding their religious leaders to the high standard of defending the true message of religion. It is the duty of the secular and the non-believing among us to use their influence and power in numbers to influence the religious leaders to openly condemn acts of violence committed in the name of religion. Though this conflict is rooted in religious peoples, the secular also have a role in preventing further bloodshed. Ultimately, all will suffer from a worldwide conflict which they had the power to prevent.

It is not always easy to speak out. The fear of offending others or being misunderstood and misquoted in the media is great. In today’s world, it may even be deadly to tell the truth about religious extremism. Yet, the only way to handle the current situation is for true religious people to speak out, to vehemently proclaim that their religious is a religion of peace and that those who incite violence in its name are false prophets. The truly faithful leaders must not allow their fear of offending others to stand in the way of promoting the true universal religious message, which protects life, and forbids murder and suicide. To be effective, this message must reach those in and out of the religion. It is not enough for religious leaders to talk amongst themselves, or for a religious leader to speak to his congregation. The words of the religious faithful must reach members of their own congregation, members of other religions and to the secular society.

If government has a role, it is investigation and enforcement of existing laws. Terrorist operations are funded through fraudulent fundraising and organized crime such as the drug trade. Governments can investigate the funding sources of terrorists and stop the fraudulent activity. Tragically some of the funding for these destructive acts has come from well-intentioned persons who have given to various charities. Where laws are broken the government has a role to track down and punish the offenders.

The cure to the malevolent use of religious message can only come from within each religion and their followers. Religious leaders must join in the war against those who have defiled the name of religion by their evil acts, openly commit in the name of religion. They should loudly correct the deliberate misquotes and interpretation of the Holy books and the prophetic language which the extremists have defiled in order to achieve their evil agendas.

Those people who might be fooled into following false prophets can be reached with the truth but will only accept that truth when it comes from their brethren. Throughout history, religiously motivated violence has been tolerated by far too many of us, leading to far too many tragedies. For the first time in history, let us embark upon a strategy that will work. Rally the forces of good, religious and secular, to come together to stop the violence created by rogue individuals who manipulate others into violence while falsely using the name of religion. – Gary L. Krupp
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 have a very interesting story of David Hauser’s introduction to Pave the Way Foundation and Gary Krupp and why he decided to join and help with this movement.

“Sorry, I’m on the phone with Rome” by David Hauser

“I’m sorry Dave, I can’t talk right now, I’m on the phone with Rome. Please go to our website, www.ptwf.org, when you get a chance and call me later.” This was the first conversation I had with Gary Krupp. My life has not been the same since. Later that day I spoke to Gary at length and we set up a date to have dinner with him along with his wife Meredith. Those of you who know Gary can probably guess where we went that Friday night.

When I went to the website and took just a casual look around, I said to myself, “how is this possible? Why is this not all over the news?” Pave the Way Foundation’s gestures are indeed monumental and are changing the course of history. I became determined to get the news out about these earth-shaking events.

On Monday April 7th at 8am, I called Gary and said that I would try to get some news coverage about Pave the Way Foundation and Gary and Meredith’s participation in the Pope’s upcoming visit to Washington D.C. Gary said that I could try but he did not seem very optimistic. I walked into my son’s office and asked him to check the internet for the phone numbers at the news rooms for channel 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12.

I also requested the numbers for Newsday, the New York Post and the New York Times. I was very humbled by the results that these few phone calls made. I told Gary it must be divine intervention.

Those of you who are concerned about the precarious world situation should pay particular attention to my next thought. We do not want the light at the end of the tunnel to be a flash caused by an Iranian nuclear device detonated over the suburbs of Tel Aviv. The conflicts between the three Abrahamic religions throughout history have caused untold global suffering and pain. The clock is ticking and we are running out of time.

Now for my next thought. We need your help. If you are financially secure and are concerned about what the future holds for our children and grandchildren then I would seriously consider making a substantial investment in this foundation. There are foundations that some of you support with one hundred times the budget that accomplish very little.

Why am I so concerned about the current world situation? I am a Premillenial Dispensational Eschatologist. Basically that means that I study the works of the ancient Hebrew Prophets. For over thirty years I have given lectures on current events and their connection with the ancient prophesies. My friends call me a P.D.E. for short.
To gain the audience’s attention I would typically start the presentation with the following quotation from a prominent Israeli politician. I would ask the question, “Who said this?”

“Everywhere you turn in Israel today the Bible is coming to life. I’m not talking only about archeological discoveries, but about the international political scene as it affects us today. If you read the Biblical prophecies about Armageddon and the end days, and you look at the current realities in the world and especially the Middle East, things certainly begin to look familiar. The vast number of archeological discoveries in Israel have all tended to vindicate the pictures that are presented in the Bible. If, therefore, the Bible has been proven true concerning the past, we cannot look lightly at any prognostication it makes about the future.” That was Chaim Herzog, former president of Israel (From a 1977 interview for the film “The Late Great Planet Earth”).

I then say to the audience, “God the architect of the ages has seen fit to take us into his confidence concerning his plan for the future and revealed his plan and purpose in his word. I am now going to provide you evidence that will demand a verdict. Is this bold statement that God has a plan true?”

This “evidence” is a ten-page document that is a comprehensive analysis of a Biblical prophecy that shows how the rebirth of Israel was specifically predicted. I refer to the document as the “Ezekiel File”. My wife Diane and I accompanied Gary and Meredith to Washington. I had the opportunity to share the Ezekiel File with a prominent Rabbi and a leading member of the Catholic Clergy. It was reported that they both came down with a serious case of goose bumps.

My work has shown me the importance of understanding the work of the great prophets. My study of current events has shown me the urgent need for good people to take responsibility and actually do something to improve the situation. Please help Pave the Way Foundation in our efforts to eliminate the barriers between religious groups that lead to conflict and war and bring about a new day when we can truly walk in peace together. – David Hauser

Note from David Hauser: If you e-mail me at daystarwindows@optonline.net with your mailing address I will send you a complimentary copy of the ten page “Ezekiel File”. God bless.

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**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](http://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](http://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. Faroque 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 then 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

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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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