

On February 1st, 2016, the Abrahamic Reunion joined peace musician James Twyman, to host the 'Great Abrahamic Pulse', the global synchronized prayer for the peace of Syria. 80 people made a multi-faith journey to the Golan Heights, gathering on the Syria border: Israelis from Jerusalem, the Galilee, and the Golan; Palestinians from Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, East Jerusalem and Jericho, joined by James Twyman's group of peacemakers from the USA and UK. This event was also our contribution to World Interfaith Harmony Week.

The group began the day with a shared lunch at the 'Shalom Restaurant', in the Druze village of Mas'adeh. Israeli tour guide to the Golan region, Amir, took them to the Druze town of Majdal Shams on the slopes of Mount Hermon. Overlooking the Israel-Syria security fence, Muslims, Christians and Jews stood on "shouting hill", where the Druze gather to speak to relatives on the other side of the border.

They continued south to the view point overlooking Quneitra, an abandoned town on the Israel-Syria border. While Quneitra is held by the Syrian army, nearby villages are held by rebel groups, including ISIS. They could hear the sounds of battles raging in Syria, not far from where they stood.

As the group drove up to Mount Bental to hold the Abrahamic Pulse global synchronized meditation event, a miracle! A sign up solidarity from above: a full rainbow around the sun.

Arriving at the summit, they planted a 'peace pole', with four languages, 'May Peace Prevail on Earth', in Hebrew, Arabic, English and Japanese. They saw stunning views of Mt. Hermon to the north, and to their east, the divided villages of the Syrian Golan Heights region.

Event organizers, James Twyman, Abdel Salaam Manasra, and Eliyahu McLean gathered the diverse crowd into a circle. James Twyman shared: "We are here to prove the enduring power of love. At 5 PM Israel time, we will demonstrate the reality of peace, to be 'extremists' for love, praying in silence for 15 minutes, when millions of people will join us at the same moment". Eliyahu pointed to nearby Syria, directing intentions to the 10 million Syrians who are internally displaced or refugees who have fled from the horrific civil war.

Religious and spiritual leaders then shared these prayers:

Abuna Nael Abu Rahmoun, Anglican priest from Nazareth: "we pray for peace in the Holy Land and...for the people of Syria...for peace, justice and reconciliation... for violence to stop! We also pray for all the refugees, those who stayed in Syria...those now in Jordan, Lebanon and...Europe. "

Ahmad Jamal el Nassan from Gaza City called in and shared this: "We, the children of Abraham, pray together to one God. We the people of Gaza, pray for the people of Syria... may we be free to join you in person soon".

Rabbi Yakov Drori from the House of Love and Prayer in Tsfat, on guitar sang beautifully the Shlomo Carlebach melody: "Shalom, Shalom, let there be peace..."

Sheikh Muhammad Usta from East Jerusalem shared in Arabic: "Oh God, You are the Peace and from You is Peace..."

Sheikh Jamal al-Din from Beit Haninah, Jerusalem: "May Allah unite us and bless our efforts for the sake of peace"

Dvorah Pearlman, from Klil, founder of the annual Jerusalem Hug shared, "now we expand

our Hug of Jerusalem to Hug Syria... once we connect with our own hearts, then we are connected with 'the other'..

Mira Drori, Tsfat: "Lets' also make peace with our spouses and children, in our daily lives..."

Rabbi Yakov Drori added: "May Hashem put peace in the hearts of the decision makers, for Syria, and the world."

Rev. Ed Townley from the Unity movement shared: "Love is the greatest power of all, love will overcome all obstacles."

Catholic Father Russ McDougall of the Tantur Ecumenical Institute shared this intention for the silent prayer: "May each of us, in our silent prayer, be aware of our presence in God, and open to God's love working through us to help others."

Sheikh Abdel Salaam Manasra closed with: "As we stand here our hearts cry, but our hope is great, our prayers will fill the world... we say enough to the violence, enough to the killing, yes to love, yes to peace. We will always stand against injustice, peace will prevail!"

James Twyman led a chant and dance for unity, and Eliyahu led the gathering in a chant of "Shalom, Salaam"..then raising hands together.. the circle converged to bless the peace pole, the intention to anchor their prayers there.

At 5:00 PM Israel/Palestine time, the multi-faith group prayed in silence for 15 minutes, holding the vessel at the center of the Abrahamic Pulse global synchronized meditation. For those minutes, the sounds of the battles below ceased entirely! At 15 minutes exactly, howls from a nearby pack of jackals broke the silence.

The group gathered for a closing circle, carrying the prayers of people all over the globe who had just joined in, sending hope from the Holy Land, to Syria and the world.

The event received widespread media coverage, including reports in Breaking Israel News, Al-Hurra Arabic TV network.

In addition a global network Unify.org and the URI, United Religions Initiative, helped co-sponsor the event.

Report written by event coordinators:
Eliyahu McLean, Abrahamic Reunion, Director
with Abdel Salaam Manasra, co-director

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