



U DAY ETHIOPIA 2018: A Convergence of Fire in the Land of Origins  
In Celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week  
January 30 – February 7, 2018

---

TESTIMONIALS



Coming together as citizens of the world for the celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week helped us to understand the interdependence of human beings and celebrate our cultural and religious diversity, promote constructive dialogue and to get to know each other, and build trust and understanding among followers of different religions, ethnicity and cultures.

**Ambassador Mussie Hailu,**  
Regional Director of URI-Africa and  
Representative of URI to African Union and UN office in Africa



U Day Ethiopia 2018 was a powerful interfaith experience with many religions and traditional views represented which substantially enabled us to deepen mutual understanding. We achieved a strong sense of unity in diversity within the group, and we all felt that peace is visible and possible when we come together in Harmony.

**Dr. Phramaha Boonchuay Doojai,**  
Buddhist Monk & Senior Lecturer of MCU  
Chiang Mai Campus, Chiang Mai, Thailand



During my forty years' journey of interfaith – be it Commonwealth Observation Day at Westminster Abbey, Prayer for Peace in the Vatican or the Centennial Celebration of the oldest Orthodox Church in the Kremlin – I have never felt so at home as during my recent pilgrimage to Ethiopia organized by friends of Unity Earth. During my stay I could feel the presence of One God and One Religion - that of Love and Compassion.

**Dr. Mohinder Singh,**  
Professor-Director, BVSSS, premier Sikh Centre in New Delhi, India



On behalf of *Chishty Foundation - Ajmer Sharif – India*, we extend Greetings of Peace and Congratulations on the great success of *U Day 2018 Celebrations* in Ethiopia as part of observing *World Inter Faith Harmony Week* between 31st January - 07th February 2018.

As an Indian Muslim coming from a 800 years old Sufi Spiritual lineage, it was a very valuable, deep spiritual experience for us to be part of *U Day Festival 2018* organized by *Unity Earth* across the ancient land of *Abyssinia (Ethiopia)* - The Land of Justice (*As per the Hadith narrations of Holy Prophet (saw) of Islam*). It was truly an opportunity to witness the beauty of so many religious traditions working and living together in harmony.

**Haji Syed Salman Chishty,**  
26th Generation Gaddi-Nashin - Astana e Khawaja Gharib Nawaz (ra),  
Chairman - Chishty Foundation, Ajmer Sharif - Rajasthan – India



This event, the interfaith encounter for Peace, Harmony and Human Dignity, around the U Day Festival in Ethiopia, in the Land of Origins, has been one of the most powerful experiences we have had together as an interfaith and inter-spiritual work towards the unification process with the whole divine creation.

**Mindahi Bastida,**  
Director, Original Caretakers Program, Center for Earth Ethics and  
descendant of the Otomi-Toltec Peoples of México



Being a part of the U Day Festival in Ethiopia for World Interfaith Harmony Week was such an honor, especially after having organized annual events at the United Nations for World Interfaith Harmony Week since its inception in 2011. At the highly significant event at the African Union, we came together from different places and religions to proclaim unity. Our diverse U Day group was truly interfaith harmony in action.

**Monica Willard,**  
Representative to the United Nations for the United Religions Initiative,  
Co-Chair, the International Day of Peace NGO Committee at the United Nations



The diversity of religious, faith, and spiritual traditions united in U DAY Festival 2018 was mirrored in the range of nations, generations, genders, and spiritual ecologies from which these leaders came. From the symbolic convergence of fire in Lalibela to the eloquent recommendations made before the African Union Commission, the events of the Festival showed the stature and deep integrity of the distinguished participants. Proper recognition was accorded to the historic goodwill among Muslims, Jews, Christians, Rastafarians, and indigenous peoples in Ethiopia.

**Peter Blaze Corcoran,**

Retired Professor of Environmental Studies and Environmental Education  
International Lecturer on sustainability, educational philosophy, and the Earth Charter



On behalf of the Temple of Understanding India Foundation, a registered public charitable trust based in New Delhi, India and the as one of the National Trustees of the Baha'i Community of India, a United Nations affiliated global religious community, I warmly testify to the wonderful services your organization has been rendering to promote interfaith harmony and the unity of all religions. The Baha'is, worldwide are confident that the peoples of the world can learn over time to weaken and eventually eliminate the scourge of religious prejudice and get universal acceptance of the Golden Rule.

**Dr. A. K. Merchant,**

General Secretary, Temple of Understanding India Foundation;  
Trustee, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India & Lotus Temple



Unity Earth offered an extraordinary opportunity for people of diverse faiths and backgrounds to come together in Ethiopia, the Land of Origins, along with musicians from different cultures, as a living demonstration of World Interfaith Harmony Week. We learned from one another, we visited sacred sites, we shared music and dancing, and we prayed from our own faith traditions for peace and harmony in our world. Highlights included visiting the UNESCO World Heritage site at Lalibela and our reception from the priests there; the Convergence of Fire Ceremony with indigenous representatives from three countries lighting the Global Flame of One Love; the U NITE concert in Addis Ababa; and our historic visit to the African Union, where we were received in our glorious diversity by the President of Ethiopia. Deepest gratitude to Unity Earth for this experience of a true culture of peace.

**Rev. Deborah Moldow,**

Interfaith Minister, Founder of the Garden of Light,  
Co-Director of the Evolutionary Leaders Circle of the Source of Synergy Foundation



The Compassion Games was part of the World Interfaith Harmony Week activities that took place in Ethiopia. Compassion Games has participated in WIHW for five years. The 64 delegates of the Unity Earth delegation demonstrated the core values of the love of God and love of neighbor with greater depth and breadth than I have ever witnessed. The sacred Convergence of Fire ceremony in Lalibela affirmed our universal oneness and love of one God. Then sharing the Global Fire of One Love with the “grasstops” and “grassroots” spiritual and political leaders at the African Union and in Shashamane inspired goodwill and interfaith cooperation across traditional divides. The diversity of the delegation and the unity of the message of peace, unity, and compassion was by far the best example of interfaith love into action I have experienced.

**Jon Eliot Ramer,**  
Founder of Compassion Games International;  
co-founder of Unity Project Seattle with John Hale and  
the Interfaith Amigos, with Imam Jamal Rahman, Pastor Don Mackenzie and Rabbi Ted Falcon

**U Day playlist of over 30 Global Fire videos produced by Compassion Games International:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3j1w0vrfXw&list=PLSQnbX2AAjZdPgck36X7AZfx8AhlbAPY>

**Jon Ramer of the Compassion Games also published this interactive “Prezi” on the 2018 World Interfaith Harmony Week, with a special focus on U DAY Ethiopia:**  
<https://prezi.com/view/9pJFiz7gFX50rbYi4W8r/>

