

The Venerable Rev. Patrick McCollum to Describe a New Narrative for Cultural and Religious Diversity and Inclusion at The World Peace Caravan Peace and Health Conference

Lehi, Utah, November 13, 2014 – World Peace Visionary and Peace Counselor the Venerable Reverend Patrick McCollum collected diverse wood and materials from the sites of world conflicts and resolutions- wood from African trees where conflict was resolved, from a tree gifted by Native American Indians that is said to carry the voice of peace, and wood carved from a tree growing from a sacred well in Ireland during the signing of the Irish Peace Treaty, and more. He varnished them with the ashes of a white buffalo gifted by an Anaswabi Chief during the Buddhist celebration of Weisak in Bangkok, Thailand mixed with sand collected from the baptism site of Jesus during Arab-Israeli peace talks in Jordan. Then he attached fragments of shell casings from the battle of Iwo Jima and debris resulting from the bomb dropped at Hiroshima to create the World Peace Violin, a beautiful instrument of music and peace that is now touring the world. The violin serves as a powerful metaphor for the beauty and diversity of our planet and for the successful integration of its religions, cultures, and people; an integration that Rev. McCollum has devoted his life's work to.

Rev. McCollum believes, "it is the very diversity of our planet and its people, as well as our navigation through the conflicts and resolutions that we have experienced together, that holds the key to our future. It is only through the acceptance of diversity and the coming together of the many different visions of the sacred that real peace is possible." Likewise, the diverse, mismatched and conflicting materials used to make the World Peace Violin have ultimately produced beautiful music. Rev. McCollum will share his vision and his violin at the World Peace Caravan Peace and Health Conference at the King Hussein Bin Talal Conference Centre on the Dead Sea in Jordan December 21-22, 2015.

Rev McCollum received the Mahatma Gandhi Award in 2010 for his work toward human rights, social justice, and equality for all religions and spiritual traditions. He was recently recognized as a saint in India and named a World Inner Peace Ambassador by Thai Buddhists. He has also served as an advisor for the United States Commission on Civil Rights and as Development Director for the United States NGO Children of the Earth. Rev. McCollum founded The Patrick McCollum Foundation, a non-profit organization promoting a sacred planetary vision that respects religious diversity and advances progress toward equality, human rights, equality for women, and world peace. In 2012, he performed an opening blessing for 100 million attendees at the world's largest spiritual gathering, the Maha Kumbh Mela in Allahabad, India.

About the World Peace Caravan

Over 3,000 years ago, the Queen of Sheba led a 750 camel caravan over the Ancient Frankincense Trail to carry her peace offerings to King Solomon in Jerusalem. In December, 2015 the inaugural World Peace Caravan will travel by camel, horse, and foot from Petra, Jordan to Jerusalem, Israel, retracing the steps of this early peace movement along parts of the storied Frankincense Trail. The caravan will be spearheaded by the World Peace Caravan Youth Delegation (twelve youth leaders, ages 16-24 selected from a global pool of candidates) and anchored by two landmark events, the World Peace Caravan Peace and Health Conference on the Dead Sea in Jordan and the World Peace Caravan Concert for Peace in Jerusalem. A uniquely embracing movement, the World Peace Caravan will engage participants physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually while inviting people of all cultures, faiths, and backgrounds to come together to demonstrate and promote peace, harmony, compassion, and a greater understanding of one another.

The World Peace Caravan is harnessing the optimism, ingenuity and dynamism of our youth to help create solutions for sustainable peace. A delegation of 12 Youth Ambassadors, ages 16-24, is being selected from a global pool of candidates to spearhead the caravan. What's more, they are fostering an online Youth Community to provide young people the world over a platform through which to share their ideas, voice their opinions, educate and be educated. The Youth Ambassadors and members of the Youth Community will participate in a unique, solutions-driven, project-based, global educational program based upon some of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Young people the world over will be collaborating on tackling such lofty goals as eradicating poverty and hunger, ensuring environmental sustainability, and attaining healthy lives for all.

The caravan will begin with a pre-launch celebration in Petra, Jordan on December 15, 2015 and depart on December 16. Participants will travel through Jordan for four days and nights, camping along the way while exchanging multi-cultural activities including music, dance and educational seminars and exploring historical and religious sites.

It will break on December 20 for a high-level, interactive WPC World Peace and Health Conference at the King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre on the shore of the Dead Sea in Jordan on December 21 and 22. The conference of invited international peace advocates will focus on health, education, and the role of women and youth in peacemaking.

On December 23, the caravan will cross the border into The Palestine Authority for a visit to Jericho and a two day trek through the Judean desert, arriving in Bethlehem on December 25. On Saturday, December 26, the caravan will culminate with a Peace Walk into Jerusalem and the blockbuster World Peace Caravan Concert for Peace. Internationally renowned musical

artists will mix with musicians from around the globe for a night of once-in-a-lifetime performances at the new state-of-the art Jerusalem Arena. The evening's festivities will be broadcast and streamed around the world.

The WORLD PEACE CARAVAN is founded by the international D. Gary Young Foundation, a 501 © (3) non-profit organization. The foundation is looking for like-minded partners who share in the vision of a world at peace.

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