

SOPP 2013
Masami Sensei
Opening Welcome Speech

Distinguished Guests and Friends,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the many participants who have gathered here today from various locations around Japan and the world.

On February 14th of this year, the Symphony of Peace Prayers and the World Peace Prayer Ceremony was presented at an event titled, *United for a Culture of Culture of Peace through Interfaith Harmony*, which was held at the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations. The event was co-sponsored by the President of the 67th General Assembly, UNESCO, the Committee of Religious NGOs with the support of various UN Missions and numerous NGO coalitions.

As a result of the powerful current which resonated out to the world with each SOPP over the years, the prayer program was welcomed open heartedly as an adjunct event of Interfaith Harmony Week endorsed by the President of the General Assembly.

On the day of the event, all participants were embraced in a circle of joy and inspiration as the program ended in great success and accomplishments.

We owe this success to our supporters worldwide, to the performers, speakers and guests who have participated in SOPPs held at Fuji Sanctuary and in other locations around the world over the years, The success of SOPP is due to the members who have been offering ceaseless prayers from their hearts at this open air sanctuary regardless of rain, storm, snow, heat or cold and to the deep rooted wishes of people who dedicate themselves to the salvation of humanity.

Such accomplishments cannot be attained by the power of one person alone. It is when the circle of participants grow in number from one to two, from two to three, to four to ten and to hundreds that a powerful shift takes place. It is when a large number of prayer members unite in purpose under a shared vision to engage in simultaneous prayers at the same time and location that we can transform the impossible and give birth to possibilities. Such are the benefits of the energy field of prayer created by SOPP.

When we commune as we are today to offer interfaith prayers of various faith traditions with united hearts, the negative thought forms and karma that encircle the world - those negative energies such as anger, jealousy, struggle, conflict, discrimination, doubt, confusion and resentments are embraced in the energies of love and mercy - the negative emotional thoughts are vanished in the energy field of light.

I am filled with joy and encouragement to learn that this year 106 locations in 53 countries the world over are organizing prayer gatherings simultaneously at this time. SOPP will surely spread throughout the world in the years to come contributing more and more to the manifestation of true peace on earth.

In the year 2015 we are planning to invite conscious minded politicians, economists, educators, doctors and spiritual leaders to dismantle walls of separation and engage in heartfelt dialogue for the purpose of establishing a Charter for the Rebirth of Divine Consciousness for the benefit of all humanity.

SOPP creates a vortex of light - sending forth ripples from Fuji sanctuary out to the world. I pray and hope that this ripple will finally embrace the world encouraging the manifestation of global peace and the coming of a world brimming with hope.

We look forward to your continued support in the future to come.

Thank you.