



The FamilyTimes

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A publication for families of all faiths

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What will the year 2003 bring for British families?

We saw landmark events and developments in 2002. The media brought us stories of international conflict, as well as sensation within our own shores. Whether or not the British public have been watching and reading about these events with interest, our lives and our families are ultimately affected.

Terrorism is proving to be a major issue for the news media and for our government. It is on the minds of people of all races, classes, and ages. The risk of terrorism was still in its early stages at the beginning of 2002 and family members across the country found themselves drawing together for support and reassurance. Anxiety dropped somewhat as the year drew on, but now as the possibility of war in Iraq looms and speculation continues about a "bio-threat", people are beginning to



We're all in this together - the events of 2002 and 2003 have and will affect families of all faiths and races in Britain.

turn to their loved ones again, particularly their families. The end of 2002 usually sees us off with our parents, siblings, spouses and children. Both non-religious and religious families came together for holidays like Christmas, Eid, Channuka at the end of 2002. We

may find that spending time together helps us to step back and look at our day-to-day routines from a different perspective.

What should we expect from the year 2003? A current affairs magazine*, predicted that many of the

(continued overleaf)

*Special issue of The Economist, 'The World in 2003' (December 2002)

Children's home in India



Patricia Earle, co-director of the Hyderabad project, meets the children on a recent visit

A Children's home with a difference has been established in Hyderabad in southern India. It provides a home for over 30 children from the so-called 'untouchable' community of city slums and rural areas. Established by the FFWPU in Birmingham, the home is now organised through a collective effort involving people not just from the Family Federation, but a variety of other faiths, cultures and backgrounds. The project has received considerable recognition from the Indian govern-

ment. The year 1998 saw a Youth Service project to help build the Home and, based on it's success, there are further opportunities for young people to travel to India and experience life there. They can work with the children in the Home as well as in their local school.

Anyone who would like to support through funding or through the upcoming service project should contact the project director, David Earle: david@rysbham.fsnet.co.uk



This year about 30 million people, will do next-to-nothing with their time other than shop and watch television.

year's headlines would be dominated by war, the Middle East and recession. Britain, however, will be "the most thriving economy in Western Europe", with the government putting lots more money into health services, transport and schools.

A study also predicted how British families would spend their leisure time. We are supposed to divide into two very different categories: a third of British families will be will do many activities together, while the rest of the population, some 30 million, will do next-to-nothing with their time other than shop and watch television. "Two-thirds of adults will not go out to sports or cultural events. Their children will spend ten hours watching the box for every one with a book, and the whole family will be gripped by gossip about 'reality' TV shows which will top the ratings." More people will visit museums and galleries, though, and more young people than ever before will visit the cinema in 2003.

A Britain that is more outwardly active could be great news for its families, so long as they actually go out and do things together. It is not certain, however, how much people will want to spend time with their families.

An article in the *Times* recently stated that, more than ever before, people spent Christmas with friends rather than with their families. Is a pattern being set? With a stronger economy and more sources of entertainment, are British families less likely to spend time with each other?

People in Britain are statistically the hardest working in Europe. And people may feel more inclined to work even harder now that there

has been a recent confusion about pensions. People are so worried that they are looking to work extra years, and see less of their spouses and families.



Will families choose to spend as much time together as they do in front of the television?

The trends and predictions are not so much pessimistic as they are warning signs. A vital part of nurturing a family is communication and simply being around. As the pace of life quickens, we can hopefully be aware of how much or how little we are having give and take with our loved ones.

Local Stories

North London Manchester Birmingham Scotland Wales Northern Wiltshire Newcastle Eastbourne Ireland Bromley East London Glas

Conference on world peace in the heart of Kent

The FFWPU Family Church in Bromley Kent put on a eye-opening conference on 7 December, to discuss ideas for world peace.

The conference was entitled: "Breaking down the barriers and bringing peace: The challenge of religions of the world in the 21st century", and was designed to show the visions and strategy for world peace as proposed by Reverend Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Family Federation.

A speech which Rev. Moon had originally given to the United Nations in August 2000, was read out and the ideas discussed in two sessions. The participants, mainly

from the Kent area took part in two organised discussion groups. It was a chance to think realistically about how a popular but complex ideal like world peace could actually be realised.

After an introductory video and a reading of the speech, there were two main proposals discussed which are advocated by Rev. Moon. First there was the suggestion for peace zones - In areas where there is an ongoing dispute over territory (eg. between Isreal and Palestine or Ethiopia and Eritrea) there would be a section allocated as a peace zone that belonged to the UN rather than either of the conflicting

states. There was secondly the suggestion for an upper house in the UN made up of leaders and representatives of the world's religions - similar to



Mr. Alec Herzer reads Reverend Moon's United Nations speech

our House of Lords. The discussions were lively and focused.

One participant, Mr. Peter Coles said it would be difficult even for representatives of religions to overcome petty differences. But, we can at least control "what our society offers to the rest of the world."

Mr. Philip Brouard, a Bromley Family Church member, said the conference was for him an "uplifting and extremely inspiring event.

"We want to hold more events and promote our presence by touching the hearts and minds of our neighbours."

Youth

A unique seminar on volunteering

The university group, CARP (Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles) recently held a student workshop that was based entirely on volunteering. While statistics have shown that volunteering has become more popular with older people than with the young, the group aimed to promote volunteering as a new trend for British students.

Entitled "A Life Less Individual - Student Volunteering Workshop", the event was held on the afternoon of 17th November to an audience of over 40 people representing 12 different universities in the South East. Participants had learned of the event by word of mouth or through the CARP members who were the organisers.



Reza Sherhamad from Birmingham works with his team to build a structure out of rubbish

People were seated in random table groups as they arrived and the program started unconventionally with some exercises spurred on by Grace Hill, an American motivational speaker and the event's MC.

"You've all interested in volunteering, right?" she asked. "Then nobody here should mind getting up off their seat and dancing." Upon which the entire audience started dancing to Gloria Gaynor's 'I Will Survive.'

The rest of the workshop followed a similar format of unusual activities including a competition where each table group had three minutes to build the tallest structure they could out of a pile plastic cups, cereal boxes and general rubbish. Surprisingly, although everyone had come to the workshop as complete strangers,

Statistics show volunteering to be more popular with older people than young people. The student group, CARP, aim to change all that.

inhibitions seemed to have gone out the window as people struggled to tape bits of paper and plastic together. The aim was help them see how they worked together in a team, a particularly relevant notion in volunteering.

There were also several stories from people who had taken part in service projects in countries such as Guatemala, Albania and India. The international emphasis on service work then led on to a panelled debate on the motion, "Service projects are useless unless they are in your own country." A heated discussion ensued as people argued as to which was better for the British people - altruism in Britain, or altruism to the rest of the world. The workshop, intended to introduce people to the World CARP project 'Service for Peace', which organises service projects in difference countries, concluded with an invitation to participate in several service projects in the South East,

including one organised by 'Go-London'.



(from left to right) Elizabeth, Miriam and Lara (from the London Institute, Kings College and Westminster University) discuss doing a service project between their universities.

With student societies already in place in several London universities, active CARP members are developing 'Service for Peace' along with other students who are keen on volunteering. Many of these young people were at the workshop and their hope is that by working together, they can promote volunteering as the best thing since beans on toast for university students.

For more information on British CARP activities, email: UK@worldcarp.org



The main participants of the seminar in central London. Some had travelled from as far as Cambridge to attend.

Morality FORUM

MF members block lapdancing club

Members of the Morality Forum (MF) pulled together and halted the establishment of a lap-dancing club in Edgware, North London, just days before Harrow Council was to grant the club a license. It took just ten days for over 1,600 signatures to be collected from surrounding religious groups and in a hasty rush to the streets and door steps of local residents.

MF head John O'Neil had spoken to several local councillors, encouraging them to speak out on the issue at the licence-deciding council meeting. They did, and John recently received a letter from the Council (which includes Edgware) stating that the license application for 'HA8' lap-dancing club had been withdrawn.

When John had first heard of the club's application in the local paper, he realised he had just days to act before the club would officially be granted a license by the Council. MF members immediately compiled a package that included a strongly worded leaflet, a petition form, covering letter and a copy of the local newspaper article on the club. This was

NEW Behind-the-scenes documentary



A British-made documentary which goes behind the scenes of Rev. Moon's recent marriage re-dedication ceremony for 144,000 clergy in America has just been released.

Filed across the United States, "The Blessing" is an extraordinary account of how the famed 'mass weddings' of the family federation became popular with Pentecostal preachers, Jewish rabbis, Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic leaders. It is perfect for anyone curious of vision of Rev. Moon. Contact your local family church if you would like to see the film.



A Family Federation "Unity in Diversity" event in London in September 2002

What is the FFWPU?

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification is a spiritual and family based organisation. We believe that spirituality, as expressed in the world's different faiths, sustains strong individuals, and that traditional family values are the basis of a society's well-being.

Founded in 1994, by the Reverend and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon and inaugurated worldwide in 1996, the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification seeks to build a peaceful world through true families.

In 185 nations the FFWPU promotes activities which strengthen the love of husband and wife, the love of parents for their children, and the love of children for their parents. We are dedicated to the realisation of God-centered families and the pursuit of world peace through sponsorship of marriage re-dedication and blessing ceremonies, educational conferences, service projects, seminars on family life and interfaith meetings.

With branches all over the

UK, we have an active membership of over 500 with many thousands more who support and espouse our views.

Family church members of the FFWPU hold regular worship services and Sunday schools. Various outreach and educational programmes are run including introductory two and seven-day seminars. A youth club is run once a week in most Family Churches along with national summer camps. For more information on local activities contact us for your local Family Church address.

The FFWPU supports educational and charitable programmes that promote Godly family values. Some of the activities we currently support include the Family Church, Prayers for Peace, the Morality Forum, IIFWP conferences, the Interfaith Children's Home in Hyderabad, India, and HARP and CARP (for youth).

The Family Times newsletter analyses and discusses issues that relate to family values and interfaith harmony, the founding ideals of the FFWPU.

Morality FORUM (continued...)

then sent out to every religious organisation in and around Edgware. Leaflets were hand-delivered to 500 houses who would be nearest to the club.

The religious organisations replied to the literature with even more signatures, with the Hindu Temple contributing 100 and the Anglican Church, 98.

After volunteers had gone door-to-door and on the streets, the number of names against the club's application reached 1,640.

Councillor Brian Gordon, of

nearby Barnet, London, was impressed with the speed at

which the opinions of the community could be assessed and compiled, saying that he wished to work more closely with the Morality Forum in the future on any moral issues that arise in the Edgware and Barnet areas.

"An average of four lap-dancing clubs are opening each month in Britain," said John. "We received a good response from the religious organisations and the over-

whelming majority of people readily sign the petition. Fighting against immoral ambitions like lap-dancing applications is a good way of serving the community and meeting people like Councillor Gordon."

The Morality Forum mobilises both religious and community leaders to campaign for family issues. It has focused on sex education policy for schools gratuitous violence or irresponsible role models in the media. It works with other organisations that have similar aims.

Upcoming EVENTS

Prayers for Peace

"Working Together Towards Peace Building"
First interfaith peace meeting of the new year
Tuesday, 28 January, 7pm

British Clergy Leadership Conference

Inaugural meeting
Focus on The Revival of the Family
Saturday, March 8th

Service Conference

Saturday, March 29th
Continuing the series of Interfaith conferences, this time focusing on the value of service work

All events shown are to be held at:

43 Lancaster Gate
London W2 3NA
(Central Line tube)



The Family Times is an official publication of the FFWPU of Great Britain

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