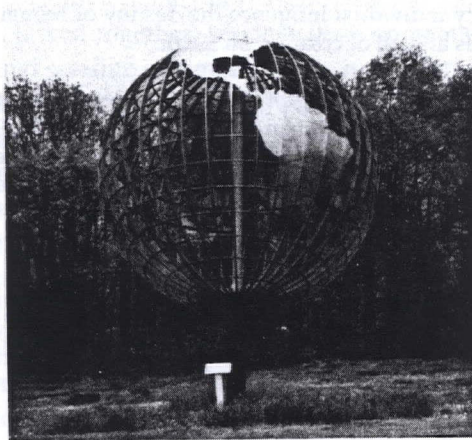


The Vision Behind the World Peace Prayer Movement

by Masahisa Goi
Founder of The World Peace Prayer Society

Vol. 1

**The Relationship
Between the Individual's Thoughts and World Peace**



May Peace Prevail On Earth

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Masahisa Goi, the founder of the World Peace Prayer Society, was born in Tokyo, Japan on November 22, 1916 and lived until 1980. Mr. Goi grew up with a great fondness for the arts. He was a gifted poet, writer and singer. Above all, however, he dedicated his life to humanity.

The devastation caused by World War II affected Mr. Goi in a profound way. He searched for ways to respond to the desperate cry for peace, not only in Japan but around the world. He prayed and asked for guidance so that he might be of service for the betterment of humanity. Through steadfast commitment and faith, Mr. Goi gained much insight into the spiritual nature of humankind and discovered the universality of the message and prayer, *May Peace Prevail On Earth*.

Mr. Goi came to understand that words, thoughts and actions are alive: that they radiate vibration and energy. He realized that the thoughts and actions of each and every individual influence the destiny of humanity as well as that of plants, animals and all of creation on Earth.

This was the beginning of The World Peace Prayer Society—a genuine peace movement to spread the message and prayer, *May Peace Prevail On Earth*. Mr. Goi believed that as more and more people are touched by this prayer and begin to live and act in the spirit of this message, a great transformation will take place in global consciousness, bringing about peace and harmony within our personal lives as well as in the world at large.

Mr. Goi was also the founder of the Byakko Shinko Kai, an association based on his spiritual teachings for the development of mind, body and spirit. He wrote more than 50 books on spiritual development and is respected in Japan as a great master in his field.

The Vision Behind the World Peace Prayer Movement

Vol.1

The Relationship Between the Individual and Humankind

Throughout history, saints and wise people have become guides for human society because they deeply wished to free this world from all illness, poverty, anguish and the infirmities of aging. Other individuals of a loving nature, wishing to be of help in reducing human suffering, have offered their services as physicians, scientist or social reformers. Yet others view disease and poverty as personal matters outside the concern of their country or humanity as a whole, in contrast to the suffering of war, for example.

Disease and poverty are not merely personal matters, however, in that they are caused by decisions and activities of the society, the country or humankind at large. Therefore, the power to alleviate these problems can also be obtained by many people working together.

Historically, human beings did not understand the peoples of the earth to be closely linked together. Modern developments such as television, jet airplanes and satellite communications have vastly condensed our sense of time and distance. As a result, the world has become much smaller.

Our present lives entail closely-knit relationships between the individual, the nation and humanity. We can now see that an individual is not merely a single human being, but rather a participant in a larger group. Another positive effect of our shrunken planet is that a rapid exchange of cultures and civilizations can be encouraged. The negative consequence, however, is that harmful activities in one part of the world directly and quickly affect other countries, such as radioactivity from tests and contagious diseases spreading across national boundaries, menacing all of us. Similarly, domestic events in other countries have a subtle or perhaps not-so-subtle influence on our own country's economic conditions.

How Thoughts Affect Our World

The world is linked together not only by modern technological developments such as television and supersonic travel, but also through the medium of thought waves, in much the same manner as the waters of the

oceans link countries together or the sky links all regions of our planet

What is the meaning of thought waves being linked to each other, and why do we need to be concerned about them? The answer is that an understanding of thought waves is highly important to the development of world peace.

How do thought waves function? Many people have a sense of how sound waves, radio waves and light waves function through the medium of television, radio or telephone, enabling us to hear one another's voices and to see images of people in distant places. Thought waves travel according to the same scientific principles underlying the process of radio, light and sound waves. However, a thought vibration is a finer or more subtle wave than a sound or light wave.

These subtle waves are generated by all of humanity, covering the Earth and forming infinite layers, like waves of air. Among these waves, some are filled with strife, envy, the anguish of illness or poverty, or with resentment and anger — which are dark and impure waves. At the same time there are other waves which are filled with love and good intentions — waves of brightly shining light itself.

What effects can thought waves produce? Each swirl of thought vibrations contains a kind of energy which influences the physical body, causing the individual to act in a way which matches with the particular thought waves emitted. To use an analogy, when electric energy flows, it turns into a current of electricity, making it possible to start a motor. In the same manner, the energy of thought waves can activate a person's physical body. Therefore, if the thought vibration is filled with strife and envy, the person under its influence will act in a correspondingly negative way. On the other hand, if it is a bright light vibration of love and good will, it will result in an action of love.

Where do thought waves travel? Although a human being's physical body may seem solid and the inside of the body apparently impermeable except through orifices such as the mouth and the pores, etc., yet in fact various invisible elements are continually entering from the outside. Although images, letters, words and sounds enter through our eyes and ears, and radio-activity permeates the body everywhere, thought waves, which are finer than light waves, directly permeate the brain and every part of the nervous system.

Moreover, the various thought waves emitted by human beings from every culture and all social strata are constantly merging with matching thought waves. For example, each person, or any given group of people, has its own swirl of thought waves. Similar types of thought waves from all other sectors of humanity are drawn to the matching swirl and merge with it. Thus, if a person or group has thoughts of anger, or is holding a grudge or thoughts

of struggle or lust, the spinning motion of those thought waves is intensified by similar waves which join it from all over the planet. As a result, it is nearly impossible for the person or group to be free from that spinning whirlpool.

The Reason for the Lack of Humanitarian Love

Understanding how thought waves function enables us to understand how and why our emotional life is influenced by them. We notice that although a person or group may periodically feel the spirit of love or have gentle thoughts, these positive feelings will be swept away if the whirlpools of dark thought waves generated by conflict and hatred which surround that person are too violent. Then that individual or group will once again begin to emit dark thoughts. Once a vicious circle is set in motion, it is not so easy to put a stop to it or extract oneself from it, in much the same way as a boy who has joined a violent gang or terrorist organization finds himself unable to leave the group when faced with threats from the other members, even if he has realized that what the group is doing is wrong. Another example is found in the military situation of many countries on our planet. The idea that peace can be maintained only through a balance of military power has been set in motion. In order to preserve military superiority, each side thinks it must keep expanding its military power, and thus makes military spending a number one priority. The result is a vicious circle in which people are constantly dreading the outbreak of war and cannot live even a single day in peace.

The world is thus in a most miserable situation, in which people are manipulated by their dark, distrustful thoughts. If all the world leaders were in this mental state, world peace would be totally out of reach.

What hope is there for putting the human spirit of love into practice? All human beings originally emanate from the highest source of Light in the universe, which many people refer to as God. This original source is free from all thoughts of evil or happiness. But when people lost sight of their origins as divine emanations, they distanced themselves from the vibration of this bright Light. As the bright light waves became gradually weakened, they became sparse and turned dark and gloomy, leading to the emergence of distrustful feelings, feelings of strife, jealousy and hatred. Thus people began to lose sight of their divine origins, building a world mingling good with evil — the world we see today.

As a result, we have come to face the Earth's greatest crisis. Where can we find humanitarian love within the notion of suppressing others with increased military force? Under the influence of this kind of negative thinking, people have difficulty putting the original human spirit of love into practice.

The Importance of Thought Waves

Once human beings have built something, they tend to want to use it, and once they have strengthened their power, they want to try it out. At some point, by some chance, it is not inconceivable that someone might press a button activating nuclear war.

In light of this situation, I sought and asked for a method through which complete peace on Earth and individual serenity could be linked together and achieved simultaneously. What emerged as a response to my request is the prayer for world peace, *May Peace Prevail On Earth*.

Thus I appeal to you to think over very carefully the importance of thought waves as a powerful solution to the crisis of violence and militancy on our planet. This is the simple logic: If our thought waves are completely purified, we can attain planetary peace. Put in the negative, unless these thought waves are completely purified, there is absolutely no way for this world to achieve peace. And unless peace prevails on earth, there can be no peace for the individual. This is because, as noted above, although each person appears to be physically separate from others, we are linked together in the world of thought waves, interrelating and influencing one another. These links are not limited to close relationships such as parents, children, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends; rather, an individual's thought waves are circulating around the Earth, reaching all others in the space of an instant.

But how are these thought waves accessed? Referring again to the analogy of sound and light waves transmitted via radio or television, although these waves are constantly flowing through the air, unless you switch on the equipment to start the electric current and adjust the dials to receive the various sound or light waves, no sound will be heard and no images will be projected on the screen. Human thought waves are very similar. While the waves which we have emitted are traveling around the Earth, the thought waves of all human beings are flowing towards us. What is the instrument that turns them on? We ourselves are turning the dials of the thought waves of others with our consciousness. When I say consciousness here, I am referring not to the surface consciousness which is our usual definition of the word, but rather to the hidden consciousness known as the subconscious.

How Positive Thought Waves Can Uplift Humanity

The thought waves of all humankind are circulating all around us, but only the portions which we are "dialing," or intentionally creating our-

selves, will effect or show themselves in our own personal destiny and that of others. Therefore, if the thoughts you emit are waves of hatred and struggle, those waves will influence many people in the world who have similar thought waves. On the other hand, if your thoughts are bright waves of love and good will, many people will be unconsciously purified by them.

If you pursue the logic of this principle, you will realize that even the smallest thought activity cannot be neglected: its effects will surely come back to the individual, while at the same time influencing humankind in general. It is on the basis of this truth that I am saying that we will never have world peace until both humankind and the individual are simultaneously uplifted by being set free from negative thought waves.

It is illogical to talk about world peace or disliking war on a planetary basis without addressing the subject of each individual's thought patterns and considering what kind of thinking would be most beneficial. If one dislikes war, before undertaking any action one has to try to keep one's own thoughts turned to peace and harmony.

I have noticed that there are some groups which shout their opposition to war and clamor for world peace, calling their movement a "struggle" or a "fight." There have also been some misdirected religious groups which have devoted all their energies to reinforcing their own authority, while trampling on the harmonious spirit which is the underlying principle of nature. Such activities are actually the manifestations of negative thought waves.

In order to attain peace for humanity and for the individual, dark thought waves, such as hatred, jealousy or thirst for power, must be purified by great waves of light.

How Brightening Your Mind Can Create Peace in Your Environment

In order to make a better future for oneself as an individual, one must practice letting go of unwelcome thoughts and attitudes, such as thinking about being ill or poor, or feeling resentment, envy and fear, which disrupt one's mental and physical harmony, and also the harmony of the Earth.

What can you do to free your mind from these unwanted thoughts and attitudes? The key point here is toward turn your thoughts to a bright and happy direction. How can you do this? The method is first to realize that all the bad conditions and events taking place within us and around us are manifestations of disappearing images or mistaken thoughts from the past which have continued up to the present. Try to generate a new image

of the situation you wish for and then continue creating bright new thoughts.

However, we do not have enough time to think of all the details of each situation that we wish for. Therefore, I suggest that you select the most fundamental issue for yourself and for humanity as a whole, and focus all of your thoughts into promoting that end — namely, world peace. At the same time, I suggest that you keep wishing for your own divine missions to be accomplished that you seek to fulfill your own unique individual calling or spiritual goals. Then, any time your complaints about the present situation or about your own personality and habits come to mind, try to put all of them directly into the prayer for world peace. Keep reminding yourself that these old thoughts are being transformed through the bright waves of the prayer, *May Peace Prevail On Earth*.

As you continue to practice in this way, before you know it your thought waves will turn into harmonious ones, and you will begin to have a peaceful feeling. Consequently, your daily life will gradually change into a bright and happy one. This is a natural consequence of the operation of the law of cause and effect. In the past, you were unconsciously forming your own fate with the thought waves which you emitted; once you have changed them into the expansive waves of prayers for world peace, it is only natural for a proportionally expansive and peaceful situation to come about spontaneously.

Thought waves have been discussed above; light waves are part of the universal source of life. If a person's thought waves match the light waves, the person's attitude is bound to be brightened. And if one's attitude is uplifted, it naturally follows that one's surroundings will also be brightened. That is, when an individual lightens up, it instantly influences all of humankind, helping to purify the negative thought waves of this world.

More and more people are awakening to the need to pray for world peace. Why is this so? It is because deep within their minds their spiritual selves know that the time has come on our planet to achieve peace or face destruction. Their inner selves know that praying for world peace connects them with the tremendous power of the benevolent energies that are tirelessly working to guide our planet in a positive direction. If you attune your thoughts to this prayer, the light from these energies will radiate through all the planes of your being and brighten your surroundings.

The Vision Behind the Movement for World Peace

The main principle behind the movement for world peace through prayer is to purify thought waves: to fully immerse all of one's thoughts and all of one's circumstances in waves of complete harmony, through which

each individual can be harmonized with his or her divine state.

Although each individual or each country may have various ideas and customs of their own, I feel that we must focus the thoughts of as many individuals and countries as possible on the goal of world peace. After all, world peace is the major goal of humankind, as it is essential to avoid the downfall of the Earth.

We can note that the world is full of conflicting ideas. We can easily see that it is wrong to oppose others out of lust for material things or for power. But when it comes to the opposition of different ideas, each philosophical proposition seems to have a reasonable basis. Eventually, people who hold different ideas form opposing groups. Therefore, in spite of the reasonable philosophies held by each side, people end up emitting conflicting thought waves which divide the world into two or three parts.

This is equally true of religious groups. If one becomes rigidly attached to the doctrines of one's own religious group, this can create a disharmonious relationship with other religions. Even though the doctrines themselves are not particularly bad, this discord goes against the most fundamental harmonious spirit of the universe.

Likewise, when people keep on emitting the trivial desires of the small ego, the individual and the nation become enveloped in swirls of negative thought waves and in the end they cannot avoid collapse. If feelings of anger and hatred crop up during an exchange of views on justice, with each party insisting that it is in the right or that its own country has justice on its side, the sense of justice has already departed.

World leaders need to give careful consideration to this point. What is the good of debating over justice if this world perishes? The interests of one's own country as well as the interests of humankind will become irrelevant.

Respect for human life needs to replace conflict. To respect human life does not simply mean to avoid hurting a person's feelings. Rather, its aim is to refresh and enliven other people's lives. We must become people and nations who can work together actively according to the directives of our true mind. In this way, each individual and each nation will be able to accomplish its own role in carrying out the overall blueprint for world peace.

To this end, I want to stress again the importance of prayer for world peace. A growing number of people are now putting this principle into practice, continually praying, *May Peace Prevail On Earth*.

This spirit of prayer is very important. It is crucial, above all, to pause for a while and focus the whole world's attention on a prayer for absolute peace on earth. Each country or individual can talk of profit or loss after that. Every person, no matter what country or ethnic group one

may belong to, should generate a feeling of responsibility for avoiding the outbreak of World War III. No one in the world wishes for this, as it would eventually lead to the destruction of the Earth.

Waking Up to Our Responsibility as Members of Humanity

In order to fulfill this great responsibility, why don't we set aside our own self-oriented desires and ambitions for a later time? Where and how can we satisfy our ambitions if the Earth should perish?

And if you think that, as one person, whatever you might do will have no influence on humankind, you are making a serious mistake. There has never been a time when each person's thought activity has been as important as it is today. One human being's thoughts, whether he or she is emitting light waves of love and sincerity or dark waves of egoistic desires, can move humanity either toward complete peace or devastation.

Therefore, I encourage us all: Through prayer for world peace, let the original blueprint for a peaceful world be carried out to perfection as soon as possible, with the smallest amount of suffering. This is the desire of the great spirit of hope which lives deep within each human being. It was in the great design of the universe for this world peace prayer to come forth at this time and place. By means of this spirit of prayer, the dark waves surrounding humanity will gradually be purified and transformed into waves of bright light.

I would like to ask each one of you to contemplate this truth, and to join in the movement for world peace through prayer, *May Peace Prevail On Earth*.

ABOUT THE WORLD PEACE PRAYER SOCIETY

The World Peace Prayer Society is a non-profit, member-supported, non-denominational organization founded in 1955 in Japan, with international headquarters in New York City. The Society is dedicated to raising peace consciousness by spreading the prayer and affirmation, *May Peace Prevail On Earth*. Membership is comprised of individuals on the grassroots level who are sincerely interested in the concept of global citizenship and bringing peace to our planet.

The Society sponsors World Peace Prayer Ceremonies, the Peace Pole Project, the Peace Message booklet campaign, the newly-inaugurated Peace Pals Project (directed at young people) and the Peace Music Initiative. The Society became associated with the UN Department of Public Information as an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) in 1990.