

The Man Who Built Peace

UK PREMIERE - REPORT - LONDON - UK

Dear friends,

After an extraordinary effort on the part of many we had a successful London Premiere of 'The Man Who Built Peace' on 7 June with just under 300 people in attendance. This was preceded by a Parliamentary screening hosted by the Duke of Montrose in conjunction with the All Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief. Here is the link to an article with images where you can read about these events:

<https://uk.iofc.org/giving-global-peacemaker-back-world>

On 9 September the first regional screening of 'The Man Who Built Peace' was launched in Birmingham in partnership with Clifton Muslim Interfaith in their Mosque with Muslims, Buddhists and Christians in attendance. There was a good turnout with many young people there. The Director of the film, Imad Karam, and Omnia Marzouk, the former President of IofC International, were there to introduce the film and answer questions afterwards. Members of the United Nations Association (UNA) who were present wrote to say they will recommend to their agency that the film is shown at their events across the country. The Vice President of the Women's Federation for World Peace took a copy to show to her meeting with 80 women from 42 countries who all live in Birmingham.

On 12 October a screening was held in Thatcham and there is a screening planned on 10 November in Coventry, in partnership with the Lord Mayor's Committee for Peace and Reconciliation, as part of the Coventry Peace Festival. Another event is planned in Oxford on 15 November with screenings in Sheffield and Bradford in planning for January/February 2019. We are in negotiations to have further events in Edinburgh and Belfast. You can read about, and register for, the Coventry and Oxford screenings at the following link: <https://uk.iofc.org/events>

We are very grateful to our 8 official partners on the UK Launch of the Buchman film: Seeds for Development / Next Century Foundation / Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace / Tearfund / Anglo-Nordic Productions Trust / Quantum Sobriety / Mustard Seed Trust / Educational Advancement Foundation.



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UK PREMIERE - REPORT - THATCHAM

Thirty people were deeply engrossed in the screening of *The Man Who Built Peace* in Thatcham in October. Following the film the room was rearranged to make the atmosphere more conducive to discussion rather than Q&A. Everyone much appreciated having Dr. Imad Karam, the film's director, to engage with this.

The first question asked for elaboration on Buchman's realisation of being the seventh wrong man, concerning the conflict in the Philadelphia hospice. Other subjects were then raised, such as why people hadn't heard of Buchman, how his work was financed, the distinctive link between personal and societal change, and Dr Karam's insights to the present Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

But the discussion returned to the fact that although Buchman's transforming experience in Keswick was so clearly orthodox Christian, the deep change in the lives of others did not appear to necessarily reflect this. Howard Grace, who had initiated the occasion, said that when he encountered MRA in 1964, three years after Buchman died, he was an atheist. It was clear to him that Buchman's experience emerged from his belief in God, and vision of Jesus on the cross. So, he wondered why, as an atheist, he resonated with this story? He now realised that it was the universal human experience of the inner struggle – in this case of wrestling with anger, and subsequent freedom from that - that he responded to. But he was happy to pass over Christian beliefs, or other interpretations surrounding that.

People such as Dr. Karam, a Muslim, who have differing beliefs to Buchman can engage with the need for a transforming experience on things like anger from the perspective of their own faith/belief. They can then encourage others to change, without feeling that this necessitates their adhering to their particular belief persuasion.

Over a quarter of those present bought DVDs, which was a clear indication of the searching reflection that the evening had inspired.

by Howard Grace, October 2018.



Screening event in Thatcham



Dr Imad Karam

Photos: Fiona Cue

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UK PREMIERE - REPORT - BIRMINGHAM



Initiatives of Change
United Kingdom

A few valuable quotes from some of the guests who attended the screening of *The Man Who Built Peace* in Birmingham

"How natural it was to have a film about a Christian Pastor, being introduced by two Muslims, to a multicultural audience in a Mosque in a western city."

"To have made the film was a very valuable thing to be done, it shows how individuals can make a difference in the world, they don't have to be a politician; we can talk to people."

"I did appreciate the film immensely, and was very moved by the Japanese apology to the Philippines following the end of the second world war."

"In all the conflicts we are living through today, we need to listen and make space for each other and never forget that we are one humanity."

by Elsa Vogel, September 2018.