

His Holiness Dalai Lama hosts faith leaders for forgiveness and love

Official press conference: Main entrance, Nishkam International Center, GNNSJ,
Chowk Prag Das, Baba Sahib Road, Amritsar, India

27 November 2007 - Fifty of the most senior religious figures on the planet, members of the Board of World Religious Leaders, gather in the holy city of Amritsar this week for a special summit on the capacity of faith to heal a world lacking in love and forgiveness. His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the local Sikh community host the global gathering, set up by the Elijah Interfaith Institute, from 26-30 November 2007.

'Sharing Wisdom: The Case of Love and Forgiveness' includes seminars, think tanks, academic position papers, prayers, cultural events and a tour of the Golden Temple. His Holiness 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, delivers a plenary address on 'How Can Religions Share Their Wisdom?' at Guru Nanak Dev University on Wednesday 28 November at 3.30pm local time. His Holiness the Dalai Lama says, 'Our planet is in desperate need for love, forgiveness and interreligious harmony. This meeting of leaders and scholars from around the world will explore how the wisdom of our traditions can help achieve these things.'

Today, three distinguished speakers will provide their unique perspectives about this landmark conference. Details about the Amritsar meeting, as well as the conference background papers put together by Elijah scholars, can be found at <http://www.elijah-interfaith.org/832/>

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Notes to editors:

- This is the third meeting of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders. Previous meetings took place in Seville (2003) and Taiwan (2005). For more information on the Elijah Interfaith Institute, based in Israel, and the meeting as a whole, please see <http://www.elijah-interfaith.org/832/>

- Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has been Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth since September 1, 1991, the sixth incumbent since 1845. Prior to becoming Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Sacks had been Principal of Jews' College, London, the world's oldest rabbinical seminary, as well as rabbi of the Golders Green and Marble Arch Synagogues in London. He gained rabbinic ordination from Jews' College as well as from London's Yeshiva Etz Chaim

- Bhai Mohinder Singh is chairman and spiritual successor of Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha (GNNSJ) and spokesperson for the host community. A civil engineer by profession, Mohinder Singh is the chairman of the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha in Birmingham, England. A strong proponent of interreligious dialogue, Singh is a member of the European Council of Religious Leaders and an advisor to the Sikh Heritage Trust

- Alon Goshen-Gottstein has been director of the Elijah Interfaith Institute (formerly the Elijah School for the Study of Wisdom in World Religions), and lecturer and director of the Center for the Study of Rabbinic Thought, Beit Morasha College, both in Jerusalem, since 1997. He has also lectured at the Ratisbonne Pontifical Institute in Jerusalem, 1997-2001; the School of Overseas Students, Tel Aviv University, 1997-99; the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies (branch of the Jewish Theological Seminary), 1996-98; the Dept. of Jewish History, Track for Jewish Thought, at both Haifa and Ben Gurion universities, 1996; and guest lectured at the University of Uppsala, 1996-97. He was a teaching assistant and lecturer in the Dept. of Jewish Philosophy at Tel Aviv University, 1991-95. Ordained a rabbi in 1977, he holds a B.A. from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he did a preparatory year for a direct doctoral program. In 1982, he did a year of research on the New Testament and ancient religions at Harvard Divinity School. He received his Ph.D. from Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1986. From 1989 to 1999, he was a member of the Shalom Hartman Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem. Stanford University Press published his *The Sinner and the Amnesiac: The Rabbinic Invention of Elisha ben Abuya and Eleazar ben Arach* in 2000, and his *Israel in God's Presence: An Introduction to Judaism for the Christian Student* is forthcoming from Hendrickson Press. His nearly three dozen articles have appeared in edited collections and in such scholarly journals as *Harvard Theological Review*, *Journal for the Study of Judaism*, *Journal of Literature and Theology*, *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy*, *Ecumenism*, and *Studies in Interreligious Dialogue*.