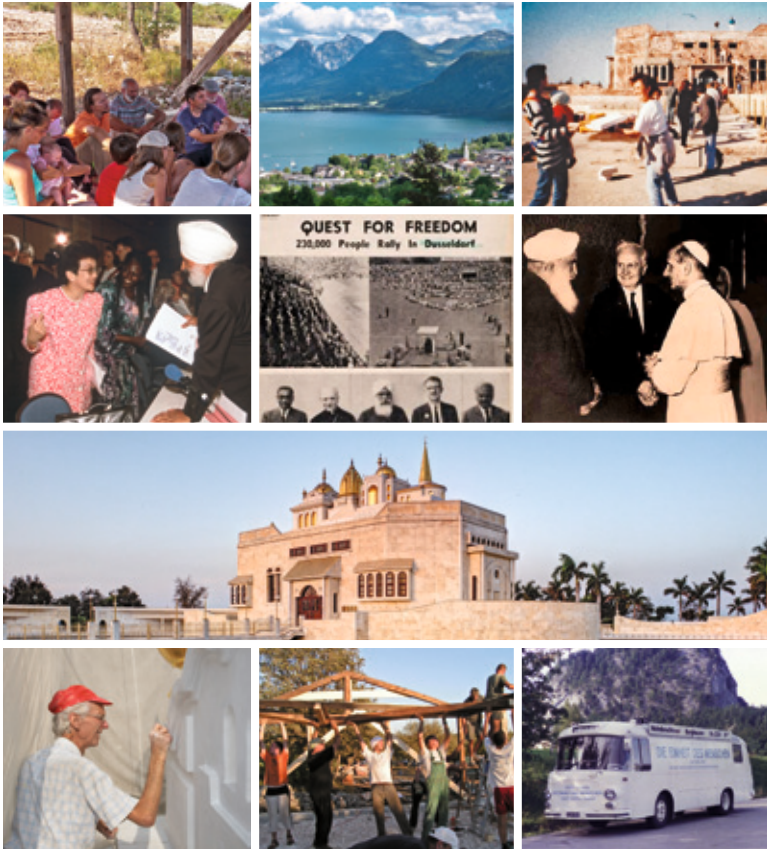




# UNITY OF MAN



BE GOOD - DO GOOD - BE ONE

*The entire humanity is one family.*

*Vedas*



Sant Kirpal Singh 1894 -1974

*We are man first; outer labels only came afterwards when we became Hindus, Moslems, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains ...*

*Kirpal Singh*

*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me*

*Bible, Math 25, 40*

## UNITY OF MAN

Nowadays nearly all of us are closely connected to each other via internet and social media. However, does this reflect a real heart to heart connection? Is it possible, simply to meet at the level of human beings irrespective of skin colour, creed, politics or cultural background? Does man on this planet earth still have a common base that connects all people? Technology may be new, but the underlying questions are as old as mankind itself.

More than 100.000 people from around 30 nations were thirsty for answers, and so came to India in February 1974 to take part in the first World Conference of Unity of Man in Delhi. Among them were top-ranking politicians and heads of different religions of both the Western and the Eastern hemispheres. At the end, all delegates agreed on two points: unity of mankind exists and it has to be spread throughout the entire world. This was the starting point for Unity of Man as a global movement.

What was so special about this Conference that the main representatives of the Indian Government wanted to take part in it? Who was the initiator of the conference, and what were his aims and concerns? Taking a brief look at Sant Kirpal Singh's life history will help answer these questions.

He was born on 6 February in 1894 to a Sikh family in a village named Sayyad Kasran. India is known as a country rich in religious traditions. The Muslim influenced centuries had ended some decades before His birth. It was the time when India was a British colony. Kirpal Singh attended a Christian school, and being an enthusiastic reader, he read all the books in the school library about ancient times, from Zoroaster in Persia, to the Greek phi-



losophers Socrates, Aristotle and Pythagoras. Kirpal Singh studied all the Holy Scriptures he could find such as the Bible, the Koran, and the scriptures of the Hindus, the Buddhists and the Sikhs. One of the writings that caught his attention was by the well-known Indian poet Kabir, also called the 'weaver saint'. Living during the 16th century, a time of great strife between Hindus and Muslims, Kabir nonetheless pointed out the basic common cores of both faiths. Kirpal Singh spoke Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi and English fluently. He also learned the Persian language allowing him to read the scriptures in their original versions. While comparing the different scriptures in detail, he became more and more aware of their common features.

Untiringly, Kirpal Singh searched for a spiritual teacher who could connect him to the inner mysteries the scriptures so often referred to in many text passages. He finally found his teacher in Baba Sawan Singh, who had dedicated his entire life to the ideal of unity, the brotherhood of all human beings under the fatherhood of God.

Kirpal Singh served as an officer in the financial administration, at first with the British, and then with the Indian Government. During the influenza and plague outbreaks, Kirpal Singh never hesitated to help the sick and dying in the hard struck regions.

He again showed his compassion for the suffering of his fellow-beings during the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan in 1947. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives or were forced to flee the fighting, losing all they had. Kirpal Singh helped them with all he had, irrespective of their religion, creed or ethnic group to which they belonged, often risking his own life in the process.

*Man, know thyself,  
and you are going to know the gods.*

*Socrates*

*Search in the heart, in the heart  
alone:*

*there lives Ram and Karim!*

*Which is false, Koran or Veda?*

*False is the darkened view.*

*It's One, One in every body!*

*How did you make it two?*

*Every man and woman born,*

*they're all Your forms, says Kabir.*

*Kabir*

*We are what we think.*

*Buddha*



The Voice, page 3, 1963



Berlin 1963, book: „Man, know thyself“



Rome 1963, with Pope Paul IV, Second World Tour

## UNITY OF MAN

After his retirement in 1948 he concentrated on spiritual work and service to humanity. He revitalized the original wisdom which lies embedded in every religion. That attracted many people from all over the world who showed great interest in his teachings. His books were translated into many languages.

During two world tours, in 1955 and 1963, he visited many cities of the Western world. The ‘cold war’ was near its climax and the fear of a third world war was omnipresent. In uncounted public lectures and speeches he showed what every person could do to contribute to a solution and so, he met the basic needs of that time. He explained the significance of humility and trust in God, to realizing one’s own self and God. Thereby, he emphasized that spirituality stands for service to others.

In 1957 he was elected president of the World Fellowship of Religions. In spite of sincere efforts, not all the major hindrances between the religions could be removed. Kirpal Singh consequently resigned as president after 14 years and convened the first World Conference on Unity of Man in 1974.

On 1st August, of the same year, he held a speech in front of the Indian Parliament. Before leaving his body on 21st August in 1974 he commissioned Dr. Harbhajan Singh to continue his work and to build up Kirpal Sagar.

*All man are born in the same way.  
They have the same outer and inner  
construction.*

*Man is first man, and there is one  
Beloved which is God. ...*

*It is a blessing to live according to the  
basis of one`s own religion. Remain  
in your own religion. Man is a social  
being. But what was the purpose of  
joining these religions? It was to know  
God. ...*

*I undertook three world tours: in  
1955, 1963, and I returned from the  
third tour on 3rd January this year.  
The purpose of these tours was just to  
bring home this fact: that man is one.  
At the level of soul we are all one. ...*

*Kirpal Singh, address to the Governor of  
Uttar Pradesh, Manav Khendra, 1973*

# CONFERENCES ON UNITY OF MAN



Why arrange conferences on Unity of Man? Aren't conferences on the basis of religions, of states, or of major organisations, much more effective? What could a single person contribute meaningfully? These and similar questions might have arisen amongst some people in 1974 when the call for the first World Conference went out.

The answers were given in a practical way. Normally, each representative is bound to the society which he represents. What was genuinely unique about this conference was the call to leave aside everything that separated one from another, and to take part in this Conference on Unity of Man, in simple words, as human beings. Then, the participant himself would become aware of the strong bonds and interconnections among humans provided that he concentrates on what man has in common. This idea, formulated by Kirpal Singh, obviously appealed to many people from all walks of life. It also explains the extraordinary response that was generated to his invitation to the World Conference in 1974. Along with the open sessions, four panel sessions took place as well. Resolutions were made about the spreading of the idea of Unity of Man.

In 1994 another major world conference took place in Northern India, in Kirpal Sagar, with delegates from more than 14 countries. The conference closed with a special ceremony: the laying of the foundation stone for the central building of the Sarovar. On its roof four symbols of God's houses were planned and should be seen in future, the sign of the common goal and a model for unity.



Delhi, World Conference, Indira Gandhi, 1974

*“Before this we have been holding many conferences at the level of religion.*

*These were instrumental in mitigating bigotry and narrow-mindedness to a very large extent. So far so good.*

*But there is yet considerable work left to do for unity and for that we now have this conference at the man level, the first of its kind.”*

*Kirpal Singh,  
from his Welcome Address, 1974*



Kirpal Sagar, World Conference 1994



Laying of the foundation stone in the Sarovar,  
Kirpal Sagar, 1994



*The mystical bond of brotherhood  
makes all men one.*

*Thomas Carlyle*



Kirpal Sagar, World Conference 2007

## CONFERENCES

*I have come to take part in the Unity of Man Conference and I have found here the unity of man itself. .... Here in Kirpal Sagar something has begun, that will serve as a model for the rest of the world.*

*From the speech held by James Burnett (USA),  
Conference 1994*

In 2007 another World Conference on Unity of Man took place in Kirpal Sagar. The range of lectures was extended from spirituality and religion, science, sociology and politics up to a cultural supporting programme with music, dance, and historical theatre performances. The unveiling of the symbols of unity in the Sarovar was the highlight of the conference which lasted for several days.

*“We heard that a change can only occur if man is ready to change himself. So the question I would like to put to you tonight is: Are we ready for that change?”*

*Extract of the speech held by  
Reverend Thomas Singh  
(United Kingdom), Conference 2007*

Many people took advantage of the opportunity to talk to each other with open minds and hearts. The atmosphere in Kirpal Sagar provided a deep feeling of unity and inner peace. Many participants expressed that they had the strong wish to share these impressions with others, impressions which had filled their hearts with joy, confidence and enthusiasm.

# SYMBOLS OF UNITY



Coming to Kirpal Sagar, even from a distance, one can see the symbols of unity. On the roof of the central building of the Sarovar there are models of God's houses: a Gurdawara, a Temple, a Mosque and a Church.

Their respective shapes symbolize the human body. Mystics of all religions remind us that God Himself resides in each human being, and so we should try to find Him there so that we can experience God in us. In the East and West, we find light sources such as candles or oil lamps which remind us of the inner Light. Sounds of bells, gongs, or conches point to the inner Sound.

The inner knowledge is innate in every person, irrespective of any labels. To get in touch with it, it is not necessary to change a religion or society. The link between human beings and God is the basis of the unity of mankind.



*The lamps are different  
but the light is the same.*

*Maulana Rumi*

*If I speak in the tongues of men or of  
angels, but do not have love, I am only a  
resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.*

*Holy Bible, 1 Corinthians 13*



## KIRPAL SAGAR

Kirpal Sagar is a place located in North India, in Punjab, close to the town of Nawanshar.

It is a place open to all people irrespective of nationality, colour, social origin, religion or any other outer signs and labels. The first building was erected in 1982. At that time, there were already considerable tensions between religions and independence movements in the region, which broke out in civil war-like violence around 1985. It is especially during times like this that it can be of great help to meet people who unwaveringly abide by a broad-minded way of life and have respect for all people.

Right from the beginning, volunteers from all over the world were able to realize these concepts in themselves, while literally working hand in hand, passing building materials to each other, planning, structuring, and organizing, in gardens as well as in workshops, and last but not least when encountering other people and cultures with different ways of thinking.

### **Today Kirpal Sagar comprises among other facilities:**

#### **Hospital:**

About 20.000 patients per year get medical care in the charitable hospital, most of whom are out-patients. The ambulance bus even drives to remote places to provide medicine to very poor people.

#### **Schools:**

About 500 students are enrolled in the Academy, a CBSE-affiliated, private English-speaking school leading to a matriculation standard. Students from needy families receive a grant by this institution. Although the Academy is a boarding school, day students are accommodated and welcomed as well.





In Daryapur, a nearby village, the K.H. public school provides education to about 400 students from the surrounding area. After the completion of the tenth grade, talented students can switch to the Academy to complete their studies. Needy students can do so with the help of grants.

### **Studies and vocational training:**

Since the 2007, teachers for grades 6 to 10, have been trained in the College of Education. Up to 100 students receive the necessary skills for their future job. The two-year course ends with the examination for the Bachelor of Education.



In Kirpal Sagar there are many workshops, among others: for metal, wood, and stone, for the maintenance of vehicles and agricultural machines, for electrical and sanitary installations. Many people, who have been trained and educated there, are now employed and able to provide food for their families.

### **Library:**

Holy Scriptures of different religions, as well as biographies and philosophical texts of great personalities are provided here to give everyone the opportunity to read and compare the different teachings. An exhibition beautifully demonstrates what all religions have in common.



### **Sarovar:**

The large water-filled pool with the building in the middle – shaped like a ship – is, as it were, the heart of Kirpal Sagar. The water in the pool symbolizes the ocean of life. Man has to cross it to reach his eternal home. Close to the pool there are four buildings, each of which contains a holy scripture: the Holy Bible, the Koran, the Ramayana of the Hindus, and the Guru Granth Sahib of the Sikhs. There are also worship services and recitations from the respective scriptures.





## KIRPAL SAGAR

### **Guesthouse:**

To meet the needs of the first world conference in Kirpal Sagar a guest house was built in 1994. Its calm and tranquil atmosphere enables the visitor to find peace in his mind.

### **Fathers' Home:**

The society of India has been subjected to major changes, in particular with regard to social structures. Family social care has decreased and as a result poverty in old age has become a problem. For most of the elderly it is important to feel that they still are needed. In Kirpal Sagar, they can find meaningful activities if they like.

### **Agriculture:**

For its own requirements crops like grain, potatoes, pulses, sugar cane, and oil plants are cultivated at Kirpal Sagar. Concepts of circular flow economy contribute to saving water and soil resources, a topic of rapidly increasing significance especially in this part of the world.

### **Service to man:**

Humanity means not only caring for oneself or one's family but caring for others as well. The concept of help for self-help keeps self-responsibility and self-initiative going.

In the humanitarian field, many volunteer workers from abroad are involved – whether through private initiatives, information events or personal assistance.

Those who participated in the project from the very beginning experienced Kirpal Sagar as a 'man-making' centre, which is open to all human beings.

Such a place is unique in the world.

*All theory, dear friend, is grey, but the golden tree of life springs ever green.*

*J.W. Goethe*

*It is love which holds the world together at its very core.*

*J.W. Goethe*





## Unity of Man

- contributes to overcome the narrow boundaries of racism, religious narrow-mindedness and nationalism to develop a universal angle of vision
- promotes tolerance and interreligious dialog
- explains the purpose of human life and the practical implementation of the inner path in daily life
- emphasizes the basic ethical values: honesty, non-violence in thoughts, words and actions, compassion and service to man
- offers exchange possibilities, thereby crossing national, social or other borders
- provides centres, including in Canada and Europe
- arranges free and open lectures and meetings concerning spirituality and unity
- compiles translations, books and brochures, other documents, audio and video materials
- supports and assists Kirpal Sagar in maintaining and further developing its mission

*Be the change which you wish to see in this world.*

*Mahatma Gandhi*



*The beauty of genuine brotherhood and peace is more precious than diamonds, silver or gold.*

*Martin Luther King*



Unity of Man Centre, Austria



Germany



Hand in hand, building material for the symbols



Dr. Harbhajan Singh (1932 - 1995)  
Biji Surinder Kaur (1940 - 2016)

## AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

Legal tools like incorporated societies make it possible to fulfil the various functions of Unity of Man. Therefore, it is possible that events be held and facilities such as Kirpal Sagar be made available to all people regardless of different outer labels. In order to have access to them it is not necessary to belong to a certain creed or to be a member of a certain society.

At present, incorporated societies exist in India, Canada, Austria, Germany, France, Croatia, Italy, and Romania. All members are unpaid volunteers. Furthermore, the use and allocation of all funds raised, is fully transparent. The General Council of Kirpal Sagar consists of members throughout the world.

In its charitable activities, Kirpal Sagar gets a broad range of support such as personal help, donations, and knowledge transfer in this charitable, non-profit sector.

The spiritual part of Unity of Man is financed only by donations which are given expressively for that purpose.

Dr. Harbhajan Singh, a medical doctor, and his wife Surinder Kaur were close disciples of Kirpal Singh. During their visits to the Western world they inspired many people and ignited in them enthusiasm for the idea of unity. Their practical example was guidance and encouragement at the same time. Centres grew up in the East and West likewise.



Kirpal Singh's idea of unity of man could enter many hearts.

Dr. Harbhajan Singh met, among others, with Michael Gorbachov, Archbishop König, a powerful promotor of interreligious dialogue of the Roman Catholic Church, and Richard von Weizsäcker, president of Germany. In 1993 he spoke to the general assembly of the UN-World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, as the only representative of a non-governmental organisation. He had been invited by the general secretary of that time, Ibrahim Fall.

„Kirpal Sagar is my heart,“ Dr. Harbhajan Singh once said. He dedicated many years of his life to this project. This was also true of Biji Surinder Kaur, who continued the work after his departure in 1995. In 2016 she placed the further work in “thousands of hands”, as Kirpal Singh used to put it several years before.



With Archbishop Koenig, Vienna, 1992



With President von Weizsäcker, Castle Bellevue, Berlin, 1992

*“I want to have some heart-to-heart-talk with you, because I think the problems of the world are not political, but they are more spiritual.*

*So we have to find a way out of these problems. As for example: There are individual problems in different countries. Whether we are politicians, religious or spiritual leaders, our purpose is one and the same: that is man-making and man-service...*

*So man is first a human being, only then we are wearing different labels and learn at different schools and educational institutions. Our purpose is to rise above those shackles.”*

*Address to the audience of the Plenary Session  
at the UN World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1993, given by Dr Harbhajan Singh*



*If you want to build a ship,  
don't drum up people to collect wood  
and don't assign them tasks and work,  
but rather teach them to long for the  
endless immensity of the sea.*

*Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*

## OUTLOOK

*“All religions spell out the ways and means of meeting the Oversoul or God; and all the ways and means so suggested, however different looking, lead to the same destination, so that one need not change from one religion to another for this purpose. One has only to steadfastly and genuinely tread upon the lines drawn by the torch-bearers for achieving the goal. ...*

*Every human being is as much a member of the brotherhood as we are, and is obviously entitled to the same rights and privileges as are available to us. Each of us will develop mutual recognition, respect and understanding for the other, thus wiping out the gross inequities of life. ...*

*Truly speaking, unity already exists: as man – born in the same way, with the same privileges of God; and as soul – a drop of the Ocean of All Consciousness called God, whom we worship by various names; but we have forgotten this unity. The lesson has only to be revived. ...*

*The method of propagation has to be by self-discipline and self-example rather than by declarations and proclamations. ...*

*The campaign for Unity of Man has to obtain in practice the blessings and support of all those who believe in the Gospel of Unity of Man, and could give it strength by taking this Gospel to every human heart around them and convincing them of the need of its acceptance in daily life.“*

*Kirpal Singh, Circular Letter, May, 1974*

*Lord make me an instrument of  
Thy peace.*

*Franz von Assisi*

*... and that is now the challenge for all of us!*



*“If the ideal of unity has become our heart-felt desire, it will spread like a wildfire burning all hatred, enmity, separation, duality, and egotism. What will prevail is oneness.”*

*Dr. Harbhajan Singh*

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Pictures of front page (upside left to right): lecture in Rovinj centre; Wolfgang lake, St. Gilgen, Austria, site of centre for the West; hand in hand, transport of building material for the symbols of unity, Kirpal Sagar; Dr. Harbhajan Singh with Michael Gorbachov, 1993; newspaper „The voice“, report about a big rally in Duesseldorf, Germany, 1963; Kirpal Singh with Pope Paul IV, Rome, 1963; central building in the Sarovar, Kirpal Sagar; construction work of the symbols, Kirpal Sagar; working together, roof construction, Rovinj; bus with advertising for open lectures, St. Gilgen, Austria, 1984