



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Maitripa Institute in Portland, Oregon To Host October 2008 Conference at Portland State University: “*Bearing Witness, Bridging Wisdoms: A Buddhist-Christian Dialogue on Contemplative Practice and Social Action.*”

PORTLAND, OR. - Two leading figures from Buddhist and Christian spiritual traditions will headline a two-day conference at Portland State University from October 11-12, 2008 exploring the link between spiritual inquiry and social action from the perspective of their respective faith traditions.

The conference will feature **Dr. Robert Thurman**, professor of religion from Columbia University, and **Dr. Marcus Borg**, professor of religion from Oregon State University, both of whom are highly-respected scholars in their respective fields of Buddhist Studies and Christian Theology. They are also best-selling authors in religious studies and contemporary spirituality and have a very broad following. (*See attached biographical notes.*)

The second day of the conference, Sunday, will also feature a panel discussion on the topic of contemplative practice and social action, bringing together a cross-section of local leaders and speakers from Portland-area Zen Buddhist, Unitarian, and Christian communities.

“Our mission at Maitripa is to offer educational and practical opportunities for our students to integrate spiritual practice and engaged social action,” said Yangsi Rinpoche, the spiritual director of the Maitripa Institute in Portland. “For this reason, we are extremely fortunate to be able to introduce two highly influential figures - Dr. Thurman and Dr. Berg – who have dedicated their careers to this important topic, and to be able to also welcome local Portland leaders who will offer complementary perspectives.”

Conference Schedule

The conference will be held October 11-12th at Portland State University’s Smith Memorial Ballroom in Portland, Oregon.





Friday October 10	Saturday October 11	Sunday October 12
7:30 pm Dr. Thurman will offer a public talk at Maitripa Institute.	Dr. Robert Thurman & Dr. Marcus Borg: Contemplation & Social Action – Does World Peace Begin with Inner Peace?	Dr. Robert Thurman & Dr. Marcus Borg: Contemplation & Social Action – Does World Peace Begin with Inner Peace? 2 pm – 4 pm: Interfaith Panel with Leaders in Contemplation & Service

Who We Are

Maitripa Institute is a revolutionary innovation in higher education - a graduate school integrating traditional scholarship with meditation and social service to create a transformative, holistic education for adults.

Grounded in the Buddhist worldview, Maitripa Institute offers full- and part-time academic programs at the graduate level, as well as a regular course of Extension Program events for the general public including workshops, continuing education retreats, and meditation retreats.

Maitripa Institute also houses a traditional Tibetan meditation hall and holds weekly Buddhist teachings from highly qualified teachers for the community. Please visit our website at www.maitripa.org for more details on the Institute.

For More Information

For more information on the *Bridging Wisdoms* conference, interviews, or press opportunities, please email info@bridgingwisdoms.net, and see our website at www.bridgingwisdoms.net. You may also call the Maitripa Institute offices at any time at 503-235-2477 to speak with our Program Director.

Thank you for you interest,

Miranda Adams (Namdrol)
Maitripa Institute Program Director
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