

ITC Conference 2010 *"Making Theosophy a Living Power in the World"*  
August 12-15 The Hague The Netherlands

**Garrett Riegg      Secretary of ITC**



## **OPENING REMARKS**

It is truly a joy for me to be here with you in a city known for its Palace of Justice, its World Court, and many movements and conferences for peace over the last 100 years. I bring you greetings from the officers and directors of the International Theosophy Conferences. We were founded and organized originally in California and Oregon, and slowly over 15 years we have become more international.

Officially as a corporation we are only two years old, so we are still learning. And one of the great things here is that you are experts at putting on conferences, and already I and others visiting from America have learned very much from the fabulous, wonderful high-tech presentations downstairs and to follow here.

Our president and treasurer, who have been most active in the past several years, Jim and Sally Colbert, could not come to Europe for this conference. So I am really standing in for Sally, our president. And I understand there will be remarks by videotape in a few minutes from them. My function has been largely to help the organization legally because of my background as an attorney. That is why I serve as the Corporate Secretary.

The purpose of ITC is to spread Theosophy and to energize and educate leaders around the world from every organization related to the Theosophical Movement. That means three or four major organizations and probably a dozen minor ones, and anyone interested in the timeless Wisdom, that has been passed down – often in secret – through the ages.

So we are delighted to have ISIS, Blavatskyhouse helping here to sponsor the program, and of course we have deep gratitude to Herman Vermeulen and to almost a hundred volunteers who are helping to put on this conference. It's amazing to see the organization and the quality here. In America we have been very casual and very informal, now in Holland we will be learning about larger conferences.

We have, as you know, many speakers from many countries and many different theosophical organizations. That's in the tradition of our 15 years of conferences.

To give you a little history: a woman named Willy Dade who lived on the border of California and Oregon offered to have a conference, mostly with people from the United Lodge of Theosophists in 1995 and she continued that tradition for 6 years at her home, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. And it was just a two-day conference. After a couple of years we finally had some Europeans come, I remember David Roeff and Pierre Wouters.

When Willy passed away we moved to Southern California for conferences. And more Europeans came and more people came from The Theosophical Society Point Loma and Pasadena, and after that more people came, including students and speakers from The Theosophical Society Adyar. So we have been broadening our welcome to everyone we can. We are always delighted to have people who are totally new to Theosophy; it's a wonderful way to become immersed very quickly.

So at this time we're looking forward to next year's conference. I'm mentioning this because we want ideas and feedback both for subjects, speakers, activities and also our location.

Right now the likely possibilities appear to be that we would be back in the United States next year, either near San Diego, California, or Chicago, Illinois, in which case we would be close to the TSA, Theosophical Society in America.

And we have to make decisions through our Board of Directors. So also on Sunday afternoon we will have our business meeting and discussion, feedback, and eventually an election of five new directors. Already we have some European directors, but we would welcome more European directors on our Board of Directors.

Also at the Sunday meeting we will introduce you to the three standing committees: 'Technology and the Internet', is one; the second is 'Health and Medicine', and the third one is 'Youth and Education.' We would love to have interest from anyone of you in those committees. Most of our work between conferences is by internet and sometimes phone conference, so location is no difficulty to participation.

If you have questions about the corporation, feel free to stop me during any free time and we can talk. I brought the Charter and By-Laws, if anyone would like to look at them, and of course we have a website where many of these things are easy to access.

As many of you probably know, the one great binding belief in Theosophy is that we are all brothers and sisters, we are building a nucleus of universal brotherhood. All of our study, meditation, meetings, go toward the goal of opening our hearts to each other, becoming closer and learning how to interconnect on the deepest level: emotionally, psychologically, spiritually.

During the conference, especially those – relatively few of us – from America look forward to speaking with you. And we're very grateful that so many of you speak English, thank you, very few of us speak Dutch.

So again I want to thank Herman and all the volunteers especially most of you from Holland, for hosting us and for what will be a wonderful and educational conference. Now I will turn the meeting back to our moderator, again with great thanks, Herman. And let us show our appreciation for all the work he and the volunteers have done.