I would like to begin with my apologies for not being here with you all in person. I am so sorry that Meredith and I cannot join our esteemed representative for Asia, Mr. Sunil Thomas for this wonderful dedication ceremony.

It is with great pleasure that Pave the Way Foundation is participating in this most wonderful inter-religious gesture, which is a model of our unique mission.

Here, a Jewish Israeli Sculptor, Mr. Sam Philipe, who comes from a family, which has lived in Jerusalem for 5 generations, has created a bronze depiction of a wonderful Christian subject, the Prodigal Son.

Please let me briefly tell you the story of the Prodigal Son.

*Jesus tells the story of a man who has two sons. The younger son asks his father to give him his portion of the family estate as an early inheritance. Once received, the son promptly sets off on a long journey to a distant land and begins to waste his fortune on wild living. When the money runs out, a severe famine hits the country and the son finds himself in dire circumstances. He takes a job feeding pigs. He is so destitute that he even longs to eat the food assigned to the pigs.*

*The young man finally comes to his senses, remembering his father. In humility, he recognizes his foolishness, decides to return to his father and ask for forgiveness and mercy. The father who had been watching and waiting, receives his son back with open arms of compassion. He is overjoyed by the return of his lost son! Immediately the father turns to his servants and asks them to prepare a giant feast in celebration.*

*Meanwhile, the older son is not one bit happy when he comes in from working the fields and discovers a party going on to celebrate his younger brother's return. The father tries to dissuade the older brother from his jealous rage explaining, "You are always with me, and everything I have is yours."*

The Prodigal Son reflects G-d’s love all of his children; they are all welcomed home, whether they have strayed away or not.

This beautiful depiction of a universal story for all faiths has found a home in this magnificent museum located in India, the birth place of four of the world's major religious traditions; Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism and Sikhism.

It is these cross gestures of learning and understanding that are what Pave the Way Foundation is all about and we are indeed proud to be part of this event.