April 6th, 2020

To the Friends of Friends
All Over the World

Dear Friends,

REF: FRIENDS CHURCH IN AFRICA AND ITS RESPONSE TO COVID19 PANDEMIC.

Receive our love greetings at this time of a severe pandemic that has hit us unapologetically during the start of the 2020 years. The whole world is at invisible warfare, and many lives have been lost. The attack is reaching the poor, the rich, the powerful and the weak, irrespective of our economic status, the virus knows no boundary and has truly no respecter for personality at all. As we reflect on the book of Ephesians 6:12, "For we are not fighting against flesh and blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities to the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and evil spirits in the heavenly places." Friends, we cannot sit down and feel helpless as the Coronavirus attacked us. Therefore, we need to remain the true church of Christ for this battle, and we shall overcome as we stay together as a family of Quakers.

Friends Church KENYA, Friends United Meeting, and Friends World Committee for Consultation Africa Section leadership that is based in Kenya, held a crisis meeting on April 4th, 2020, to discuss the ravaging COVID19 pandemic and the Africa Quaker church response to the scourge. The three-body leadership was all in unity over how to respond to such unprecedented calamity ever experienced in our times. It is in this regard that we have appealed to the Quaker family in Africa for actionable support over this. We are also requesting the same to our brother and sister Quakers outside Africa to equally respond jointly to this attack by Covid19 in the following ways:

A. Spiritually:
   As a community of faith, we request all other members of the Quaker family to join with our African Friends in praying for each other, the world, and this intensity would see this Coronavirus reduce from spreading. Our hope rests in the Lord as we pray for the health workers who are on the frontline of the war against the Covid 19. Please join us on this journey at this unprecedented period.

B. Medical Support:
   a. The Quaker church in Africa has two leading level 4 hospitals known as Lugulu Friends Mission Hospital in Bungoma County, Kenya and Kibimba Hospital in Burundi. The hospitals have a high flow of patients in their respective regions, and we need to be mindful of our services to the community through healthcare. We have established that the hospitals are highly exposed, and especially our healthcare providers who are on the frontline are not protected at all in handling Covid19 patients. The following vital items which are urgently needed during such a time are missing entirely. African Friends have been asked to urgently participate in donating to the hospitals the following items:
      i. Lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for both nurses and doctors at the hospital
      ii. Enough masks for the entire staff of the hospital
      iii. Enough sanitizers all over the hospital in every place
      iv. Ventilators for the isolation rooms they have identified but empty
      v. Any other medical support for the hospitals related to Covid19
b. The other hospitals include Sabatia Eye Hospital, Kaptama and Chwele Health Centers, all in Kenya, Abeka Hospital in Eastern DRC (South Kivu) and Misuhuko Medical Centre in Kwibuka, Burundi. Therefore, we must be seen to be on the frontline leading both spiritually and physically. We are also aware and concerned about Zimbabwe where there are a lot of difficulties during this time of pandemic and to address this, we had a talk with the Africa Director of AFSC, Kennedy Akoko who has included on the priority list of supporting the country, especially the hospitals.

C. Humanitarian Response:
   a. As we look into the looming lockdown in the countries like Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda among others, we expect to see many vulnerable members of our churches facing food challenges. This will lead to health issues and make them candidates of Covid19.
   b. Following the above-expected challenges, we are calling our members to respond to this urgently by donating either food in kind or cash to build our food bank for such eventuality.
   c. Please channel your financial donations through our international offices either FWCC World Office, London, FWCC or FUM Offices in Richmond, Indiana.
   d. Funds received through FWCC AS account shall be accounted for through the section treasurer and the funds received through FUM Africa Ministries Office shall be accounted for through AMO. A final document shall include all the accounts money received and how it was executed.

Thank you for being a trusted and committed Friend of the Quaker community in Africa, and together we shall overcome this pandemic through Jesus Christ.

Your faithful servants,

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