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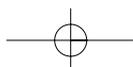
Friends World News

The Bulletin of the Friends World Committee for Consultation



**Friends World
Committee for
Consultation**

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)





From the World Office

The Antidote to Fear

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father'. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Romans 8:15-16 [NIV]

2008 seems to be a year of increasing fears of many different kinds. Our Friends in Kenya and Zimbabwe and even the US live with fears related to their political processes. Earthquakes have rocked other Friends' communities. Diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria continue to trouble many communities. Fear of what the future may hold is ever-present.

The global economy bubble seems to have burst with its repercussions rippling around the world. FWCC sections and World Office all have to keep an eye on the stock markets and the financial well-being of our contributors as we make our plans for the years ahead.

Will we be able to afford the outreach and communications services we want to provide? How can we adapt to changing conditions?

Hope and faith are the antidotes to fear; they keep fear from paralysing us. Hope and faith remain when we think we may have lost everything - what is left but God? I re-read the Book of Job recently. To move the discussion beyond the angst, blame, and woe-is-me, it took the young man Elihu lecturing the four old men, saying 'Let us discern for ourselves what is right; let us learn together what is good.' (Job 34:4 [NIV]).

Our Kenyan Friends have come together to create a peace committee working across yearly meeting boundaries, supporting one another in implementing Friends' peaceful response to their crisis. May that example inspire us not to let our fears overshadow our source of strength, faith and hope.

With faith and hope,

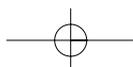
*General Secretary
FWCC World Office*

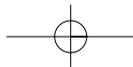
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Cover: Friends distributing blankets at a camp for Internally Displaced People in Kenya. See pages 3-5.

Photo by Eden Grace





The Crisis in Kenya

When violence erupted in Kenya on 30 December 2007 after the announcement of the presidential election results, Friends in Kenya and around the world reacted. Before the end of January, all Quaker groups in the country had come together at a Peace Conference to discuss how to co-ordinate Friends' response to the crisis. Already, Friends the world over had been giving generously for crisis relief and peace and reconciliation work in Kenya.

The conference adopted a plan of action (*see page 5*). A pastoral letter from the conference was written to president Mwai Kibaki and Raila Odinga requesting them to speed up the process of reconciliation and peacebuilding to avoid more blood-shed in Kenya.

Groups of Friends also visited the various internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps, distributing aid bought with donations. Before distribution of humanitarian items, each group gave the IDPs time to speak about their experiences of the violence and the gospel of peace was preached from the Bible by pastors. Representatives of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) and the Change Agents Peace Programme International (CAPPI) spoke with individuals and began planning activities.

Items distributed at every centre were maize, beans, rice, cooking fats, salt, sugar, soap, blankets, water filters and clothes donated by Kenyan friends. The amount depended on the number of the people at the centers. As well as what was given, IDPs visited requested the following items:

- ◆ School fees for the displaced students
- ◆ More food up to the next harvest
- ◆ Farm inputs in case they are able go back to their homes
- ◆ Material to reconstruct their houses
- ◆ More blankets
- ◆ Tents as they await resettlement
- ◆ Sanitary towels
- ◆ Medication
- ◆ Counselling and trauma healing

More funds are urgently needed to meet these requests.

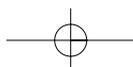
On 23 February, 60 AVP and CAPPI members met to discuss when to visit IDP camps for Counselling and trauma healing sessions. They began with "listening sessions" and Counselling for people to tell their stories in safe environment.

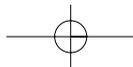
To guarantee integrity and transparency in use

Continued on Page 4



Photo by Eden Grace





Dorothy Selebwa and Joseph Mamai Makokha distributing aid at an IDP camp.

Photo by Eden Grace

of funds the Friends Church Peace Team (FCPT) committee put the money at its disposal into a budget, which is being strictly adhered to. The FCPT had received US\$22,261 by the beginning of March.

Joseph Mamai Makokha, FCPT Chairman, writes: "I highly appreciate the assistance our overseas Friends have given us. It has enabled us reach where we are and we hope to cover more short-term work. But long-term work has to start now that peace in Kenya has been reached. Displaced people required resettlement. Houses will be required, farm inputs, youths empowerment, economic development, advocacy, spiritual development of the

Peace Testimony and organisational capacity are the activities we have earmarked to do as long-term activities. We kindly ask for more financial support locally and from overseas for the above to be accomplished. We are strongly committed to integrity, transparency and accountability in use of funds. May God Almighty's hand be seen in this work."

Earthquake in Congo

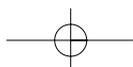
From 3 to 4 February 2008, several earthquakes occurred in the province of South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a country already torn apart by war.

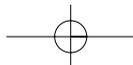
This has been a disaster for the Friends community in Congo in general and in Bukavu in particular, where several Friends' homes were destroyed. This calamity happened during the church services, when people were away from their homes, which means there was high loss of household goods as well.

The Congolese government has launched an appeal for help to NGOs, churches and private benefactors, national and international. According to volcanologists, the quakes will be continual.

The Evangelical Friends Churches in Congo invite all friends and benefactors throughout the world to help with the rebuilding effort and humanitarian relief.

The World Office is working in co-operation with Evangelical Friends Missions (EFM) to raise funds. Donations in US dollars may be sent to EFM, P.O. Box 525, Arvada, CO 80001. Donations in pounds sterling may be sent to FWCC, 173 Euston Road, London, UK NW1 2AX. Donations may also be made in any currency online at www.fwccworld.org. Please mark your donation "Congo earthquake relief".





FCPT Plan of Action – Kenya

Immediate crisis-intervention measures

- ◆ Issue a public statement from this Conference
- ◆ Use the media to publicise messages of peace and reconciliation
- ◆ Document and disseminate stories of people acting in courageous non-violent ways
- ◆ Engage in non-violent direct action to stop violence and retaliation in our communities

Provide IDPs with shelter, accommodation, food, water, fuel, clothing, medication, first aid, health care, security and safety, sanitation, trauma Counselling, Bible distribution, activities, games, access to schools

Inter-communal crisis

- ◆ Mediate in situations of acute conflict
- ◆ Assist in reconciliation between displaced people and those who threatened them
- ◆ Reintegrate displaced people into the community, rebuild trust between neighbours

Psychological and spiritual crisis

- ◆ Crisis-intervention counselling
- ◆ Train primary school teachers on the effects of trauma on young children
- ◆ Offer trauma counselling for IDPs
- ◆ Reach the “disaffected” youth, e.g. boda boda drivers, touts, the unemployed
- ◆ Scale up AVP in as many places as possible
- ◆ Establish “listening programmes” for people to tell their stories in a safe environment
- ◆ Preach the gospel of peace, educate our own people on the teachings of our church
- ◆ Begin a pilot programme for civic and peace education in Quaker schools
- ◆ Organise youth work camps to help with humanitarian work and rebuilding

Organisational capacity:

- ◆ Establish a national coordination body for the short-term work
- ◆ Address need for personnel, including placement of volunteers
- ◆ Networking and communications
- ◆ Guarantee integrity and transparency in use of funds, to maintain our good reputation

Possible longer-term work

Youth Empowerment

- ◆ Create a fund for youth empowerment
- ◆ Youth programmes, e.g. volunteer training and action, work camps, vocational training
- ◆ Seriously examine the involvement of youth in the structures of the Friends Church
- ◆ Re-engage with our Quaker schools
- ◆ Peer-mediation and AVP in the schools

Economic Development

- ◆ Income generating activities
- ◆ Teach practical business skills, entrepreneurship

Humanitarian Relief

- ◆ Relief Fund for future disasters
- ◆ Peace, justice and non-violence – a movement for social transformation to a culture of peace
- ◆ Peace Research Institute (at the University)
- ◆ Peace Radio, other publications
- ◆ Workshops, mediation, trauma healing, AVP, listening
- ◆ Restorative justice movement
- ◆ Peace curriculum through the Ministry of Education
- ◆ Training for non-violent direct action for social change

Advocacy

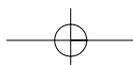
- ◆ Establish an organisation which can Organise the Friends voice on Public Policy matters
- ◆ Build the capacity of Friends to be involved in the civic agenda at all levels
- ◆ Use the model of QUNO “quiet diplomacy”

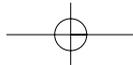
Spiritual development of the Peace Testimony

- ◆ Review and improve the content of the membership class curricula
- ◆ Strengthen the peace and justice programmes at Friends Theological College

Organisational capacity

- ◆ National Management Committee – develop institutional capacity
- ◆ Network with other peace organisation in Kenya and around the world





Peace in Our Land

Historic Peace Churches in the Asian Context of Religious Pluralism, Poverty and Injustice

By Gerard Guiton, Australia YM

In December 2007, the Historic Peace Churches (HPCs) met in the Indonesian city of Solo in central Java for their third consultation under the care of the World Council of Churches' (WCC) programme, the Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV). The HPCs comprise the Mennonites, Friends and the Church of the Brethren.

Background

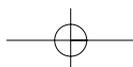
The three communions have been influential in the dialogue within the WCC regarding violence and its resolution since the founding of the organisation in 1948.

A Friend, for instance, suggested the motion at the World Assembly in Uppsala (Sweden) in 1968 that led to the Program to Combat Racism, an important factor in the overcoming of Apartheid in South Africa. At the 1994 meeting of the WCC Central Committee in South Africa, a member of the Church of the Brethren offered a motion that resulted in the Program to Overcome Violence. In 1998 this program was extended (by a motion from a Mennonite pastor) to become the Decade to Overcome Violence. The latter motion was discussed at the 8th World Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The WCC's invitation to the HPCs to offer counsel and guidance to the DOV programme led to a meeting of Quakers, Mennonites and Brethren at the Mennonite seminary in Bienenberg (Switzerland) in 2001. The presentations at that meeting were published as *Seeking Cultures of Peace: A Peace Church Conversation* (ed. Fernando Enns et al. Cascadia and WCC, 2004).

The Bienenberg meeting recommended that a second conference be held in a developing economy to include people who live constantly with the reality of violence. The second conference, entitled Watu Kwa Amani-People of Peace, took place in Nairobi, Kenya in 2004 (www.peacetheology.org). The Nairobi proceedings were published under the title, *Watu Wa Amani-Seeking Peace in Africa* and include a DVD.

The planning committee for the two conferences initiated a further planning process for a third conference in Asia. A feasibility meeting was held in Bali (Indonesia) in December 2005 during which a steering committee was appointed. Paulus Widjaja (Indonesia, Mennonite) became chairperson with Gerard Guiton (Australia YM) as vice-chair. Indonesia was chosen as the conference venue and a local planning committee was set up. For two years there was much liaison between the two committees by email and two face-to-face meetings in Java.





The Conference

The conference, Peace in Our Land, brought people together from the highly diverse and dispersed Asian region to discuss critical theological issues related to the military and warfare, technology, health, environment and climate, and exploitation and oppression. It was a lively mix of theological reflection, stories from the field and a sharing of “practical” involvements. We experienced diverse forms of worship and shared theologies, different analyses of situations and events as well as experiences and challenges in the field through workshops. We listened to heart-wrenching stories from the perspective of the victims of oppression and injustice. We formulated an epistle to the churches worldwide and a message to the UN Conference on the environment in Bali. We were privileged to experience aspects of Indonesia’s beautiful culture, stay with families and visit places of worship and the work places of our Indonesian participants.

The conference was clearly Spirit-led with participation from 120 people from 10 countries. The participants brought with them a variety of expertise – in dispute resolution; management and transformation; pastoral and ministry; development aid; and peace and social justice activism. Twenty spaces were allocated to Friends and 16 attended from Australia, Aotearoa (NZ), India, and Philippines. Eight Friends were women. The proceedings are being prepared by Paulus Widjaja, Gerard Guiton and Don Miller (USA, Brethren), the editorial committee.

The Future

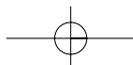
It is hoped a fourth and final conference will take place in the Americas. It is envisaged that a planning committee will convene in 2009. Its task will be to decide if another conference is feasible and/or desirable, and if so, on a venue. Parallel to this process is one conducted by also the WCC which will culminate in a convocation (venue to be decided) in 2011 at which the HPCs will formally present a peace theology, the fruit of the four international conferences. Preparation for this conference is underway.

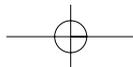
Two new worship groups

Two new worship groups have been formed in the past six months, in China and in Poland.

The **Shanghai Worship group** meets weekly on Sundays for study and bi-weekly on Tuesdays for unprogrammed worship. Email quakers.sh@gmail.com or call Ken at +8613764625170.

On 2 March, the first regular monthly public meeting for worship in centuries took place on Polish territory, in **Poznan**. Although there have been various foreign Friends holding more or less public meetings for worship intermittently in Poland, there were no regular meetings in any part of Poland. Now a group of Friends in Poznan has organised the long-term holding and publicising of public meetings for worship. In doing so it is building upon the 2007 Central European Regional Friends Meeting which it organised in Poznan last May for EMES. The group is eager to invite foreign Friends to worship with them. Meetings occur on the initial First Day of every month. Details of finding the meeting venue and any exceptional changes of which First Day in the month the meeting will be held can be found at www.amu.edu.pl/~bmaurus/quakerpoland.html or by writing to mjarczyk@amu.edu.pl.





QUNO News

Furthering Friends' concerns about Children of Prisoners

By Siobhan Sparkes McNamara

For the first time, a UN resolution on the rights of the child has included the issue of "children of persons alleged to have or recognised as having infringed the penal law"

At its seventh session the Human Rights Council called on States to give attention to the impact of parental detention and imprisonment on children, and, in particular, to give priority to non-custodial measures for a child's sole or primary carer and to identify and promote good practice in relation to the needs and physical, emotional, social and psychological development of babies and children affected by parental detention and imprisonment.

The issue of children of prisoners is one which the Quaker United Nations Office Geneva (QUNO) has been working to raise awareness of for some time, collaborating with and calling on the expertise of many other Friends internationally, following endorsement by the FWCC Triennial in Auckland, New Zealand.

Since 2005 QUNO has published four well-received research papers on the issues surrounding children of a parent who is detained pre-trial or sentenced to prison. These have looked at the issues both of babies and young children who live in the prison with the parent, and those who do not.

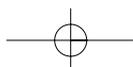


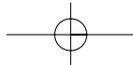
The issue of children of prisoners has been a Quaker concern since the days of Elizabeth Fry.

QUNO's most recent publication *Children Imprisoned by Circumstance* was written by Oliver Robertson, a former QUNO Programme Assistant and now news reporter for *The Friend*. His paper is a fascinating exposé of just how little states and governments really know about this issue.

Due to the scarcity of existing work in this area, QUNO commissioned a number of country case studies, carried out by Quakers and others with direct prison contact and experience.

Vipin Nathaniel, who works for the Quaker Peace and Service Society India and is based in Bhopal, carried out the India research. Vipin first became involved with QUNO's work when he responded to a questionnaire sent out in 2005 about women in prison, providing valuable information about the conditions in Central Jail Bhopal. Vipin was then commissioned to build on this research by investigating the children of prisoners angle.





Matthew Naumann, a former QUNO Programme Assistant, conducted research in Kyrgyzstan, where he now lives. Matthew's research has already drawn considerable attention in Kyrgyzstan, sparking a roundtable meeting on the issues in which UNICEF, the governmental departments and others were all involved.

Rachel Yordy was one of the two researchers in Egypt. Rachel is a Canadian Quaker who was a QUNO Geneva summer school participant in 2007 and is in Egypt working for a Canadian organisation on human rights issues.

These cross-regional perspectives give a crucial balance to the paper, and importantly illustrate that children of prisoners are a challenge being faced by all countries, north and south, east and west.

And yet, so far, there is precious little in terms of systematic or evidence-based methodology being adopted by states. The huge variations in factors such as age limits on children staying with their mother demonstrate that, for the large part, state regulations are little more than arbitrary decisions.

However the lack of coherence amongst state practice is not entirely surprising. The research itself demonstrates that the impact of parental imprisonment on children is multifaceted and complex and there are no easy or obvious solutions.

Indeed, as the UN resolution identifies, the one conclusion that can safely be drawn is that it is better to avoid the problem altogether by using alternatives to custody. Whilst in most cases prison is no place for babies and children, separation from parents will rarely be a desirable option either.

A copy of the report can be found at www.quno.org. For more information, contact QUNO-Geneva, 13 Avenue du Mervelet, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland – Phone: +41 22 748 4800, Fax: +41 22 748 4819, email: quno@quno.ch.

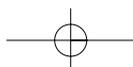
New Director for QUNO-New York

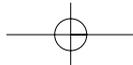
Andrew Tomlinson is the new Director and Quaker UN Representative in New York.

Andrew has a BA in Archaeology & Anthropology from the University of Cambridge and a Masters in Oriental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.

Andrew joined QUNO after a career in international finance in London and New York with S.G.Warburg and Citigroup, having spent the last several years managing a socially responsible investment business.

A Quaker since he came to Philadelphia from the UK on an exchange scholarship, he and his wife Ursula were married at Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting, and he is now Clerk of Chatham-Summit Monthly Meeting in New Jersey.





Around the sections

Asia-West Pacific

Website

With the assistance of a grant, we were able to contract with a local Friend to upgrade our website from a passive one to one in which interactivity takes place. We are delighted with the result and will go on making improvements. Already we receive more enquiries outside of Friends. By listing publications, projects and the Section Gathering information, we are assisting Friends with the most frequently asked questions, using a minimum of staff time. You are all invited to visit us at www.fwccawps.org

Translated material on Quaker related subjects is sought for the major languages used in our region. Already we have some documents in Japanese. A Hindi site is planned and should be operational soon.

AWPS Newsletter

This publication is being written and posted on our website on a quarterly basis. We were delighted that Naomi Kamimura offered to edit the March edition, and always look for participation from the Committee in these matters. The mail-outs have been sporadic, but we hope to resolve these difficulties soon.

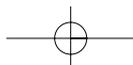
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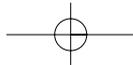
The largest Friends Church in the AWPS is the Philippines, affiliated with EFI, but received into the FWCC family as well. We are looking forward to their involvement in our activities, to learn from their ministry, their Bible College education, their young people's programs, their use of music, their training of pastors who then go back to very many countries in Asia. Young Friends from Aotearoa New Zealand have raised funds and hope to bring one Young Friend from the Philippines to the AWPS Gathering. This co-operation across the miles will help us to grow in care and understanding of one another.

Bhopal Gathering Planning

The AWPS Gathering will take place from 6-12 November this year, and already the registrations indicate this will be a "Mini-Triennial", with Friends present from every continent on the globe, from large and small meetings, as well as Friends' projects in Asia. The Registration Form is on the AWPS Home Page, but readers will have to be very quick with enquiries, as the venue, the Bhopal Pastoral Centre is basically fully booked already. We hope to set up as blog whilst at Bhopal, as it was done in Dublin, so that Friends worldwide can follow the activities, speakers, photographs etc as if they were present. We ask you all to hold this Gathering in the Light, that it may focus us on resolving difficulties and lead us to a new place of understanding and care for each other, our environment and peace.

The Young Friends Event will take place from the 12-15 November, at the same time as the Central Executive Committee Meeting. There is a pre-Gathering program in Delhi and other parts of Northern India, and a post gathering program in Mid India. One event is the 100 years of Friends, being celebrated by Mid India Yearly Meeting. Others will visit the Friends Girls School at Sohagpur, the Friends Rural Centre at Rasulia and do intervisitation of Friends Churches. An AVP program in India is attracting involvement from overseas AVP facilitators.





Around the sections

Indonesia contacts

The Historic Peace Churches Conference took place in Solo, Java last December, with about 15 Friends present, alongside people of Mennonite and other peace churches. Their report is on the web-page. It will be incorporated into a full World Council of Churches document on the ways forward to world peace at the conclusion of the Decade to Overcome Violence in three year's time. Sadly, the Indonesian Friends Church were unable to send any representatives.

We are now working through Friend Mark Deasey, who works for a Muslim Development/Aid agency in Java, and is fluent with the language, to convey greetings and discuss business matters on behalf of AWPS. The Indonesian Friends General Secretary Arbiter Simorangkir is now communicating very clearly and we hope that soon we will have face to face meetings with these Friends.

We are also very happy to learn about the work of the Friends Peace Teams in Aceh (Northern Sumatra), in AVP training and to support them with our interest.

Isolated Friends

The work of FWCC is so much to do with the spiritual care and support of individuals and small worshipping groups.

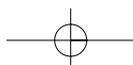
We are happy with the new arrangements through the Communications Manager and our own appointees to the new International Membership Committee, Julian Stargardt of Hong Kong MM and Ruth Watson of Australia Yearly Meeting, a former AWPS Executive Secretary. Ruth lives in Albany, a beautiful but isolated city southwest of Perth in West Australia.

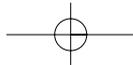
It is good to follow the leadings of two Friends in establishing worshipping groups. Jennifer Dow has established a Worshipping Group in her home in Taipei. At an "opening" she invited Friends from the Evangelical Friends and also produced a booklet on Quakerism, choosing carefully writings that would resonate with Chinese thinking.

Australia Yearly Meeting has recently commenced sending complimentary copies of the Australian Friend to Meetings and churches all over the AWPS, to encourage more dialogue between "neighbours".

Intervisitation

With our vast geographical area, and limited finances, our commitment to face to face Intervisitation is not frequently realised. Since the last publication of FWN, Linley Gregory has attended Japan Yearly Meeting, Sachiko Yamamoto was an AWPS guest at Australia Yearly Meeting, Michael Corbett and family visited Seoul Monthly Meeting and the Philippines Friends Church, and some Young Friends from Australia attended the Aotearoa New Zealand Easter Camp. A regular feature of both Australia and New Zealand Yearly Meeting events is the regular exchange of Friends across the Tasman Sea. Recently the AYM family of Andrew Bray was welcomed at Tokyo Monthly Meeting.





Around the sections

Europe & Middle East Section

Change of Executive Secretary

Bronwyn Harwood retired on 31 March and her successor Marisa Johnson started on 1 January. Although three months sounds a long time for a handover, time flew by as the secretaries were busy preparing for a large gathering in Vienna which took place over Easter, visited Ramallah Monthly Meeting and took part in the evaluation of the Ministry and Outreach feasibility study. EMES bid a fond farewell to Bronwyn in Vienna, and welcomed Marisa.

Vienna Gathering

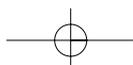
An amazing 126 people of all ages, from 25 countries, gathered in Vienna for a joint meeting of EMES and EMEYF (Young Friends), the first such event in the 70-year history of EMES. In spite of cold weather and memories of the Annexation of Austria, also being commemorated on its 70th anniversary, the gathering radiated warmth and hopefulness, as Friends from diverse backgrounds explored together the Quaker Way and Witness. Long-established Meetings, recently recognised Worship Groups, large Meetings, isolated Friends, growing Meetings, ageing Meetings, were able to share their experiences and learn from each other. Displays of Quaker service all over Europe and the Middle East raised awareness of what is being done, and what needs doing. We were able to use a live link to reach a group of young students from the Friends' School in Ramallah to discuss a film of *Romeo and Juliet* they had produced, after this had been shown to an appreciative audience. We left with a deep sense of connection, and a longing for more opportunities to worship, learn and play together.

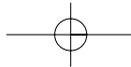
Ministry and Outreach project

The Ministry and Outreach project, which began in April 2007 thanks to a grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT), will come to an end in July. The evaluation confirmed that the project has transformed the ability of EMES to respond to the needs for learning and pastoral support of a growing and increasingly diverse Quaker community in the Section. The recommendations are to incorporate this service into EMES and, if possible, expand it. This can only be done with more funding, and a new application has been made to JRCT for a further three years' funding. Julia Ryberg, who has been co-ordinating the project, has travelled extensively among Friends, and has run a retreat for Friends who have travelled in the Ministry to explore how they can be best equipped and supported in future for this service. Another exciting development that Julia has been working on, in conjunction with Woodbrooke Study Centre in England, has been an on-line study group, which has developed a set of core materials that describe the Quaker experience, and they are now going to translate these materials into their own languages (11 in all), with the aim of offering the on-line course to new Friends and Enquirers in their own language. We are very excited about the potential of this new tool for serving the needs of dispersed groups and isolated Friends in our Section.

Publications

We continue to publish *Among Friends* quarterly, and this year we published *Ministry and Outreach Programme: an evaluation of the feasibility study*. Our website needs urgent redevelopment. We are hoping to be able to do this in conjunction with World Office later this year.





Around the sections

Section of the Americas

Annual Meeting

A small group of Ohio Valley YM teens spent the weekend at the meeting, and a good number of local Friends traveled the winding roads to Waycross Episcopal Camp and Conference Center near Morgantown, Indiana, for evening programs. Rachel Stacy, keynote speaker, told of her challenge to live out her faith as a new teacher in a tough city school and her connection with the emergent church and convergent Friends movements. "A refreshing breeze of youthful promise for the future of Quakerism and FWCC," noted one participant.

Next year's annual meeting is scheduled for March 19-22, 2009 and will be hosted by Friends in the Portland, Oregon area. Mark your calendar now to attend! Members of the Central Executive Committee – representing all four sections of FWCC – will be there.

Cubans attend Annual Meeting

Two FWCC representatives from Cuba Yearly Meeting were welcomed to April's Annual Meeting, the first time in recent years that visas were granted to Cuban Friends to come to a US-hosted FWCC meeting: María Armenia Yí Reyna, a keynote worship speaker at last summer's FWCC triennial in Dublin, and Jorge Luis Peña Reyes, a journalist and writer. Their participation was facilitated by an aide of US Congressman Patrick Murphy (D-Pennsylvania), who was able to track down visas that had been approved by not issued. Without this help, it is doubtful Cuban Friends would have made it.

However, three representatives from Bolivia and Peru were denied entry to the US to attend the meeting.

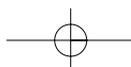
Maria and Jorge met with other Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL) reps to discuss activities for the coming year. They offered a well-attended interest group on Friends in Cuba. Maria and Jorge continued on for visitation among Friends in the New England YM and Wilmington YM areas, as well as Richmond and Indianapolis.

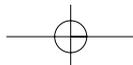
Peace theme for September FWCC gathering in Canada

Save the dates of September 26-28 for an FWCC regional gathering at Crieff Hills Community in Ontario, Canada. "Being a Peace Church in the 21st Century – Old Testimonies: New Times" is the theme which will be guided by Janet Ross, Jane Orion Smith and Murray Thomson. All Friends are welcome to attend regardless of where you live. Registration materials will be available on the FWCC website soon. This event is being coordinated by Friends in the Lower Great Lakes region of FWCC.

New Spanish pamphlets published

The Wider Quaker Fellowship has released its newest packet of writing selections in Spanish. They include the translation *Shalom es mucho más que paz* (*Shalom: Much More than Just 'Peace'*), by Anthony Prete, and *Perspectivas sobre el método cuáquero de tomar decisiones en la iglesia* (*Perspectives on the Quaker Process of Decision Making*), an anthology selected and translated by Susan Furry and Benigno Sánchez-Eppler. Please tell any Spanish-speaking Friends you know about these Spanish WQF publications, which are available both electronically and in hard copy from the Section office (contact details on page 15).





Some Yearly Meetings in the second half of 2008

June 26-29	Norway , Lundheim Folk High School, Moi
July 11-14	Aotearoa/New Zealand , Tibbs House, Auckland, NZ
July 9-13	North Carolina (Conservative) , Guilford College, NC
July 17-20	North Pacific , OSU, Corvallis, OR
July 19-22	Evangelical Friends Church, Eastern Region , Malone College, Canton, OH
July 19-24	Northwest , George Fox University, Newberg, OR
July 20-26	New York , Silver Bay Association, NY
July 24-27	Indiana , Quaker Haven, Syracuse, IN
July 28-August 2	Pacific , Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma, CA
July 30-August 3	Philadelphia , DeSales University, PA
August 2-7	New England , Bryant University, Smithfield, RI
August 4-10	Baltimore , Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD
August 8-16	Canadian , Augustana University, Camrose, Alberta
August 8-9	Iowa (FUM) , William Penn University, Oskaloosa, IA
August TBC	All Kenyan YMs
September 12-14	General Conference of Friends in India , Friends Rural Centre, Hoshangabad
October 31- Nov. 2	German , Quakerhaus, Bad Pyrmont
November 15-16	Mid-India , George Fox Hall, Itarsi
November 21-23	Japan , Tokyo

Friends World Committee for Consultation

Friends World Committee for Consultation was established in 1937 to be a channel of communication between Friends, helping us to explore and nurture our identity as Quakers so that we can discover and be faithful to our true place in the world as a people of God.

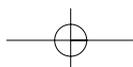
FWCC is a consultative, committee-run, organisation enabling Friends and their yearly meetings to work cooperatively. Yearly meetings and other Quaker bodies affiliate to FWCC through its four sections, Africa (with its office in Nairobi, Kenya); the Americas (Philadelphia, USA); Asia-West Pacific (Australia); Europe & Middle East (Cambridge, UK).

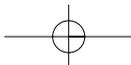
FWCC meets as a world body every three years when the representatives of the affiliated yearly meetings gather for a Triennial meeting which is organised by an International Planning Committee and the World Office in London, UK. FWCC activities and programmes are decided by the Triennial and Section meetings.

Further information about FWCC and its activities can be obtained from the World Office or the Section Offices, whose addresses are on the inside back cover of Friends World News. Contributions to the work of FWCC are always welcome and can be sent to any of the offices.

Friends World News

Friends World News, the bulletin of FWCC, is published twice each year. If you wish to receive a personal copy, please contact the World Office (or the Section of the Americas if you live in North America). There is no set subscription fee, but a donation to cover the cost would be welcome. Please send to the World Office anything you would like considered for publication in Friends World News – articles, letters, news, photographs and other illustrations, about the activities and religious witness of Friends. All materials received will be acknowledged although the editor cannot make any commitment to publish. Please say if you wish photographs or other materials to be returned.





FWCC Publications

- (1) Faith in Action: Encounters With Friends (£5/\$8)
- (2) 21st Triennial Talks - (set of 3) (£6/\$9)
- (3) & (4) World Gathering of Young Friends Study Book
Quaker Faith & Practice Around the World
£6 (\$9) each, or £10 (\$ 16) for both
- (5) Friends World News (twice yearly by request)
- (6) Triennial T-shirts (€9, £6, \$11) plus postage
- (7) Triennial Mugs (€20, £14 plus postage)
Contact the World Office for details
- (8) Cheerfully over the World, a handbook for isolated Friends (£5/\$8)

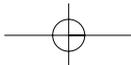
Contributions/Order Form

FWCC relies on contributions in order to carry out its ministry. To contribute to the work of FWCC please fill in the form below, indicating the amount of the contribution and your method of payment.

To order any of our publications: Circle the appropriate number on the list and enclose it with the form below to: the World Office for orders and contributions in £sterling or the Section of the Americas for orders and contributions in US\$ (addresses below). Publications will be shipped with no additional charge. Fill in the form below, indicating the total cost of the items and your method of payment.

<p>Method of Payment: cheque or money order to FWCC in £Sterling or US\$ (circle one) or by PayPal via our website www.fwccworld.org</p> <p>Details of Payment:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Total Literature</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£/\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation to FWCC general work</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£/\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donation for particular area of our work, including FWCC Sections</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£/\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____ (please specify)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£/\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£/\$ _____</td> </tr> </table>	Total Literature	£/\$ _____	Donation to FWCC general work	£/\$ _____	Donation for particular area of our work, including FWCC Sections	£/\$ _____	_____ (please specify)	£/\$ _____	TOTAL	£/\$ _____	<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Please tick here if you would like a receipt <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(For contributions only)</i></p>
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TOTAL	£/\$ _____										

<p>SECTION OF THE AMERICAS 1506 Race Street Philadelphia, PA, 19102, USA E-mail: americas@fwccamericas.org Phone: +1 215 241 7250 Fax: +1 215 241 7285 Executive Secretary: Margaret Fraser www.fwccamericas.org</p> <p>AFRICA SECTION PO Box 41946 Nairobi, Kenya E-mail africa@fwcc.quaker.org Phones: +254 2 570 077 +254 2 567 601 Executive Secretary: Moses Musonga www.fwccafrica.org</p>	<p>WORLD OFFICE 173 Euston Road London NW1 2AX, UK</p> <p>General Secretary: Nancy Irving E-mail: world@fwcc.quaker.org www.fwccworld.org</p> <p>From OUTSIDE the United Kingdom call Phone: + 44 207 663 1199 Fax: + 44 207 663 1189</p> <p>from INSIDE the United Kingdom Phone: 020 7663 1199 Fax: 020 7663 1189</p> <p>U.K. Charity 211647</p>	<p>EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST SECTION 22 Percheron Close Impington Cambridge CB24 9YX E-mail: emes@fwcc.quaker.org Phone: +44 1223 479585 Executive Secretary: Marisa Johnson www.fwccemes.org</p> <p>ASIA-WEST PACIFIC SECTION 17 Bourelet St Tarragindi Qld 4121 Australia E-mail: awps@fwcc.quaker.org Phone +61 7 3342 4887 Executive Secretary: Valerie Joy www.fwccawps.org</p>
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Trees for Africa

At the 2000 triennial in the United States Friends decided to plant at least 9000 trees worldwide to compensate for the CO² emissions caused by travel to the 2004 triennial in New Zealand. Friends in Europe decided to collect the necessary funds to enable Friends in Kenya to plant trees This will contribute to the much needed reforestation in Kenya.

A related minute was made by the Working Group on Environment and Sustainability at the triennial in Dublin in 2007: *Since 2003 Netherlands YM (Minute 03/03) has compensated for carbon dioxide emissions caused by Friends using air travel worldwide. The Netherlands representative with FWCC-Europe and Middle East Section at that time, Kees Nieuwerth, designed a project called "Trees for Africa" in co-operation with Kenyan Friends and their existing Rural Service Programme. Other yearly meetings, the members of the executive committee, and the Executive Secretary of FWCC-Europe and Middle East Section also compensate for their air travel. African Friends at this triennial tell us with great enthusiasm of the progress of reforestation in Kenya and the Congo. We call on Friends worldwide to join European Friends in this or a similar programme. We see this action in the context of the need for considering the environmental consequences of our Quaker and individual activities.*



Preparing the land for tree planting.

The project has involved the existing tree nursery started by the Friends Rural Service Programme, which is jointly owned by all Kenyan yearly meetings. The aim is to plant indigenous species of trees, forest trees or fruit trees, that will be managed sustainably. A project has been developed aiming to establish tree nurseries in at least 130 village meetings of the Kenyan yearly meetings. Trees will be planted at meeting houses and in Quaker family compounds. To date some 200,000 young trees have been planted at sites owned by more than 100 monthly meetings belonging to 12 yearly meetings. Some 45 tree nurseries have been established together producing some 180,000 seedlings to be planted next rainy season.

A treeplanting seminar was held at Kaimosi bringing together some 50 representatives of yearly meetings and attended by some 150 students and staff of Quaker schools. Field training on establishing a nursery, treegrowing and treeplanting was given to hundreds of Friends.

If you wish to support this project, donations should be marked "Trees for Africa" and sent to:

Quaker Hulp (NL), Giro Account 220644, IBAN: NL 68 PSTB0000 2206 44 and BIC PSTBNL21 Haarlem The Netherlands. The contact for money transfers is Wim Nusselder (wim.nusselder@antenna.nl) and for the project, Kees Nieuwerth (k.nieuwerth@wxs.nl).

