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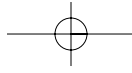
Friends World News

The Bulletin of the Friends World Committee for Consultation



**Friends World
Committee for
Consultation**

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)



From the World Office

Joys of being among Friends

The season of acknowledging the greatest gift is upon us. From the gift of the life of Jesus Christ stems so much of our world, our attitudes, our faith, our understanding of the Great Mystery. Yet that cannot be said for much of the planet we live on. I've just returned from Bhopal, India where I attended the triennial Gathering of Asia-West Pacific Section followed by the annual meeting of our Central Executive Committee. It was my first time in a country where Christianity is hardly known, where in some rare places Christians are persecuted even in these times.

Friends have been in India for over 150 years; the groups based mostly in central India have survived; missionaries continue working quietly in other areas. While the CEC was meeting, about 40 young adult Friends gathered, most of them Indians. It was their first such gathering and we could share their joy in coming together and in

their new sense of community. They were joined by young Friends from Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, and the US.

A new yearly meeting, Mahoba, is now affiliated with FWCC. Its two churches were begun by Friends who relocated for work in Uttar Pradesh away from Bundelkhand YM. Another group, Marble Rock Friends, is in the process of affiliation. More joy for the Section and all of us.

My prayers are for joy and appreciation for all you do in living and demonstrating your faith every day. May God bless you all in the coming year and bring to life more possibilities of peace!

With faith and hope,

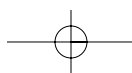
General Secretary
FWCC World Office

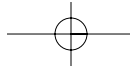
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Cover: Young people from Bhopal Yearly Meeting welcome Friends to the Asia-West Pacific Section meeting. (See page 10.)

Photo by Roger Sturge





Friends Around the World launched

The long-awaited update to *Friends Around the World* (formerly *Quakers Around the World*) has been launched. It is the 11th edition, the first in the age of the world-wide-web – the last edition being in 1994. The web is a blessing in terms of providing a source of continually updated information: www.fwccworld.org. It has also presented a challenge to the editor as to when to go to press!

What this little handbook aims to provide is an overview, a snapshot of the world of the Religious Society of Friends. There is much variety and diversity within the Religious Society of Friends and always parts of it that do not fit neatly within the boxes and categories we create in an attempt to make sense of it. The Holy Spirit does indeed move in mysterious ways among us.

We are grateful for the cooperation of so many people and organisations in providing the information included. Many people have worked on this in the last several years and we appreciate all their efforts.

If you want further information, there are many sources. Where available, we have included website addresses for each organisation listed and many links are available from our website: www.fwccworld.org. In addition, there are always new print publications describing this religion, known broadly as Quakers, and some older publications remain treasures of information.

We have made great effort to bring this to you as fully and accurately as possible, but for various reasons, we know that there are some sections that are already out of date. We apologise for any omissions and errors in listings. The book will be printed on demand, which means that we will be able to incorporate minor changes as we are made aware of them. Those changes will also be posted on the new Friends Around the World website (www.friendsaroundtheworld.org) so that the latest information is always available.

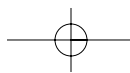
As well, we now plan to do a fully revised edition every year, and we are looking to expand the information contained in the book. In essence, we want to create a portable website, as up-to-date as possible, containing all the information about Friends that people might need in their travels. A tall order perhaps, but with your help, we can do it.

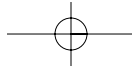
So what can you do to help? First, let us know about any errors you spot in this edition. Second, let the editor have any updates that you know of promptly. Third, send your suggestions on how this book can be improved, especially what added content you would like to see.

Please send amendments to corrections@friendsaroundtheworld.org or write to: Corrections, FAW c/o FWCC, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2AX, UK.

Send suggestions on how this book can be improved to suggestions@friendsaroundtheworld.org or write to Suggestions, FAW c/o FWCC, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2AX, UK.

To purchase Friends Around the World, please visit www.friendsaroundtheworld.org. The cost is £12 plus postage and packing. A PDF version can be downloaded for £6. (Conversion will be made into other currencies.) Alternatively, send a cheque for £15 for each copy to FAW c/o FWCC, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2AX, UK, with your postal address. (Unfortunately we can only accept postal payments in Sterling.)





Through Conflict to Peace: FWCC's 2008 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage

Jessa Finch, Annapolis Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Listen, listen, listen to my heart's song. Listen, listen, listen to my heart's song. I will never forget you. I will never forsake you. I will never forget you. I will always love you.

Twenty-five pilgrims selected from 15 Yearly Meetings came together for the spiritual experience of a lifetime: Quaker Youth Pilgrimage (QYP) 2008. This almost month-long adventure was made possible by the Friends World Committee for Consultation, and is an ongoing effort to encourage friendship among all branches of the Religious Society of Friends. The itinerary for this trip included traveling through "1652 Country", the birthplace of Quakerism, as well as other parts of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

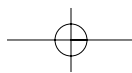
For me, it all began at Abington Friends Meeting House (outside of Philadelphia) on July 16. As more Young Friends from Canada, Mexico, and the United States began to trickle in over the course of the afternoon we amused ourselves by exploring the connected Friends school, making semi-awkward conversation, and eagerly awaiting the next arrival. Looking back on the strangers I met that first day, it is hard to believe that they are the same people I now consider part of my extended family! That first night was a quite important one. For us it was the first night of "the pilgrimage" and the beginning of something huge and unknown. We were all beyond excited!

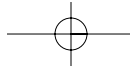
The next day we explored Philadelphia. The highlight was visiting the grave of Lucretia Mott, an incredibly important Quaker female abolitionist, at the Fair Hill Quaker Burial Ground. As the casual semi-awkward conversation died down, we began intense spiritual discussions and comparisons of Yearly Meetings! The school bus buzzed with the talk of Evangelical Friends' views on homosexuals, the question of "Are Quakers Christian?", and, of course, "Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior?" We didn't know it then, but these topics of conversation, and others like them, were to play a vital role in our spiritual growth and understanding throughout the rest of the pilgrimage.

The seven-hour flight quickly accustomed us to the Pilgrims we were sitting next to and before we knew it we were at Glasgow airport. We exited the building into the weather that would soon become the norm on this British Isles excursion, a cold wet drizzle. We proceeded to Glasgow Friends Meeting House, where the European pilgrims were to meet us. We played some name games and participated in general introductions (Monthly Meeting, Yearly Meeting, Size of Monthly Meeting, Programmed/Semi-programmed/Unprogrammed). It was quite interesting to find how vastly Meetings ranged in size, from a worship group that simply consisted of the members of one pilgrim's family, to 75 or so people on any given Sunday. After this brief time together we broke off into small groups and left with our home-stay families.

I was placed with a group of six Pilgrims about 30 minutes outside of Glasgow in Lochwinnoch, Scotland. It was the perfect little village! They had a river in the backyard and chickens too! I quickly got accustomed to the endless pots of tea as I compared cultures with our host family and other pilgrims. YouTube also played an important role as I was exposed to modern British television (and some of the old classics too: Fawlty Towers!). This group gave me a springboard into the community, so I wasn't so overwhelmed by having to socialize with everyone at once, which served as a fantastic aid in the first few days of the trip.

All Pilgrims were very taken by the beauty and serenity of Yealand Conyers, the meeting house, and the surrounding fields and hills. We had our first business meeting, approved our first two clerks, and





settled into a rhythm that we would maintain for the rest of our 10-day stay there. Typically, we would rise early, somewhat reluctantly due to our habit of talking into the early hours of the morning, eat breakfast, pack a lunch, and load the buses. These daily excursions would take us anywhere from the Quaker Tapestry in Kendal to Pendle Hill, and every significant historical Quaker site in between. In our free time we would have committee meetings, leisurely walks, trips to the phone box, spiritual discussions, and rowdy games of wink and Frisbee! But although it seemed a paradise to us, we eventually had to move on.

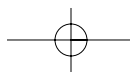
Our trip to Dublin was complicated, but we managed the three trains and the ferry combo quite well (and without losing any Pilgrims or luggage!). Once we had arrived in the Republic of Ireland we took up residence at Churchtown Meeting House outside of Dublin. The scenery here was different, suburbs versus the sheep fields we had come to know, and so were the accents! By this time the group had gotten quite comfortable within itself. We would break out into song during almost any activity, and there was always a surplus of hugs! Our first full day in Ireland we participated in a fund-raising event for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland in which we sold pens and took donations at several local shopping malls. It was great fun, even for the less socially inclined among us, and we raised a considerable amount of money for a great cause. The next day was our excursion into the buzzing metropolitan hub that is Dublin. The highlight of this adventure was the trip to the ancient Book of Kells at the Trinity College Library. The intricacies and dedication that went into its creation are simply incredible to behold! After what seemed like a very short stay, we again loaded on the buses with the Moyallon Retreat Center as our destination.

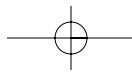
Northern Ireland seemed very much like England had been, except with more rain. We began our stay there with a three day retreat focusing on kindness and love. We had many interesting activities and workshops ranging from “chatrooms”, which centred on many different issues and their place in Quakerism (Quakerism and God, Quakerism and the Bible, Quakerism and the Environment, etc.); to a fishbowl type discussion on all aspects of sexuality. These organized discussions also provoked less formal spontaneous ones as Pilgrims continued to explore their peers’ spiritual beliefs, as well as coming into their own. A very important part of the retreat for me was also the “Silent Afternoon” planned by Ministry and Worship Committee. Starting at the close of lunch and ending with the start of Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m. we participated in silent games, a silent walk, and times for individual reflection and meditation. It proved to be a very intense yet enjoyable spiritual experience and I am quite grateful for the opportunity.

After the retreat we made trips into Belfast to explore the political system and parties of Northern Ireland, as well as taking a closer look at the tension still existing between the Catholic and Protestant communities there. The latter was most evident in the “peace walls” which served as protection between the denominations’ neighborhoods. We also visited Quaker Service, a visitors center with a daycare and a café at one of Northern Ireland’s prisons, as well as Quaker Cottage, a group that brought together Protestant and Catholic Mothers from highly challenged families (either due to physical/sexual/drug abuse, etc.) in an effort to help them heal from those wounds and make steps in a positive direction. Both of these organizations were highly inspirational and prime examples of how Friends can and have been working to make this world a better place for all of us. Our time at Moyallon came to end with a pleasant but hot service day, during which we battled weeds and moved gravel in a small attempt to repay Moyallon Friends for their bottomless generosity.

Once again we travel by ferry, but this time to Scotland, where we took up residence in a simply

Continued on page 7





Young Bolivian teachers visit the US

Newton Garver

Alicia Lucasi and Rubén Hilari, two young Bolivian Quaker teachers, have traveled to the US for face-to-face interaction with US Friends and with Quaker education in the US.

Alicia is spending the school year working at Carolina Friends School (CFS) in Durham, North Carolina, and Rubén is spending at least the fall semester at Oakwood Friends School (OFS) in Poughkeepsie, New York.



Alicia Lucasi

Both Alicia and Rubén completed their university degrees last year, Alicia in Educational Administration and Rubén in Linguistics (English and Aymara).

Alicia, 24, the only child of Dionicio and Julia Lucasi, has been a high achiever from early on. She graduated from high school at 16, and immediately enrolled in various training programs, where she obtained the highest grades. At 20 she began studying English and even sent an application to Wilmington College. In 2005 she wrote (in English):

“I am putting all my dedication and enthusiasm to reach my objective, to speak, write, and listen in English. In my level (advanced) we are putting into practice all the grammar that we learned. Success! On June 29th, I was a translator (English to Spanish and Spanish to English) for 7 visitors from the US and UK. They understood me perfectly! I owe it to you and God. I had a great experience because I never translated before.”

During the past year she has been working in administration at the INELA school on Max Paredes, and serving her church as secretary and advisor to the youth. Alicia's experience at CFS will be put to great use in strengthening Quaker education in Bolivia.

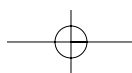
Rubén, nearly 28, also comes from a Quaker farm family on the Altiplano, and like Alicia is a hard worker and a high achiever. After his primary and secondary education in Quaker schools, he trained for two years as a computer programmer before starting on his university degree in 2002. Simultaneous with his university work, Rubén took a three-year course in English and began teaching English in both Quaker and public schools - a very full schedule.

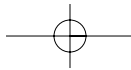
Speaking about his work last year, he said, “It’s always important to give without thought of what you will receive in return.” Rubén will make a rich contribution, first at OFS and then back home in Bolivia. He writes:

“I am so excited about my first trip abroad. *Hermano* Newton, believe me how difficult it is for people like me, descended from poor families and who don’t have a lot of money, to know other countries. I cried the first time you wrote to me about the trip. After that I was thinking all the time that it was unbelievable. I was praying a lot to God about it. I received many responses from God, first of all that I have to trust in Him. I cried again when I received the email of the



Rubén Hilari





official invitation by Oakwood Friends School.” Rubén believes that with a solid grounding in Quaker education possibilities are opened up for young indigenous Bolivians. They can enter into society in a new way, enter the political world, and bring change based on Christian principles.

He shares what seems to be the common understanding among Friends in Bolivia, “You sacrifice, and change will come.”

Those who have donated to BQEF deserve much credit. Establishing scholarships and upgrading English studies provided the groundwork for the journeys of Alicia, Rubén, and those who will come after them. Rubén and Alicia both completed university degrees with the help of scholarships, and both have a good command of English (necessary for thriving economically and academically in Bolivia).

Since the number of young Quakers completing university degrees and learning English (as a third language) is increasing dramatically, there is every prospect for this program to flourish in coming years. We still need your generous help to maintain this and other essential programs, including to pay increasingly expensive airfares.

To donate, send cheques to:

Bolivian Quaker Education Fund
11253 Boston Rd.
East Concord, NY 14055-9711

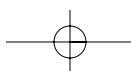
or visit **www.bqef.org** for further information.

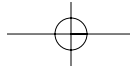
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enchanting YMCA-owned and operated castle. It is here that we celebrated our last days together as a community. Our activities ranged from dance parties to epistle writing as we slowly came to terms with the fact that this unbelievable trip was coming to an end.

Although a month seemed like an eternity when I first left my home in mid-July, in reality it was barely enough time, and I was left hungry for more. I know I can't speak for all the Pilgrims when I say this, but I have come home a more confident, knowledgeable, and open-minded Quaker than I ever could have become without this trip. I quite frequently find my thoughts traveling back to our last worship in the airport terminal in Philadelphia. Although we may have looked like a dirty group of strange singing teenagers to some, we knew what this trip had meant to us and what we were walking away from it with (besides a pack full of dirty laundry).

Furthermore, as I head off for College, I am beyond grateful to have a 29-member family supporting me in the next steps and entirety of my spiritual journey, and although I realize our belief systems vary quite a bit, it doesn't matter, for these differences don't separate us from one another; they just require an open mind and a loving heart, and with these two features, we can in fact develop deeper and more meaningful relationships than we have ever known.





QUNO News

Conscientious Objection to Military Service

At its 9th session, the UN Human Rights Council for the first time considered the issue of conscientious objection to military service. This issue had been on the agenda of the former UN Commission on Human Rights every second year and this periodicity is being continued in the Council.

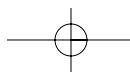
The Council received a report from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/9/24), which provides an update of the significant developments on conscientious objection at the international, regional and national levels. In particular, the report highlights the groundbreaking decision of the Human Rights Committee (Mr Myung-Jin Choi and Mr Yeo-Bum Yoon, Communications Nos. 1321/2004 and 1322/2004), reported in more detail in the QUNO Briefing Paper Vol 26, No. 1, of November-January 2007, which made clear that conscientious objection to military service is protected by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights' Article 18 (right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion), and the Committee's General Comment No. 32 that repeated punishment of conscientious objectors for their continued refusal is contrary to Article 14 of the Covenant (ne bis in idem principle).

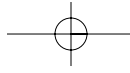
At the regional level, it is notable that Article 12 of the Ibero-American Convention on the Rights of Youth, which entered into force on 1 March 2008, specifically recognises the right to conscientious objection to obligatory military service, and commits States to legislate to safeguard the exercise of this right as well as to progressively end compulsory military service, and to ensure that under-18s are not called up or involved in hostilities. This is in addition to the general rights of thought, conscience and religion. So far, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Spain and Uruguay are parties to this Convention. Other States members of the Ibero-American Youth Organisation should be encouraged to become parties: Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Portugal and Venezuela.

The Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief and its Working Group on Arbitrary Detention are also active in addressing conscientious objection issues.

In particular, the Special Rapporteur raised concerns about the lack of provision in her recent visit to Turkmenistan, and the Working Group has taken up cases in Colombia, Israel and Turkey. The Working Group, which had already identified repeated imprisonment of conscientious objectors as being a form of arbitrary detention, following the Human Rights Committee's decision, now considers that the initial detention of a conscientious objector can be 'arbitrary'.

Regrettably, not all States yet provide for conscientious objection to military service. In our statement to the Human Rights Council, FWCC drew attention to the failure of the Republic of Korea to provide for conscientious objection as required by the Human Rights Committee's decision on the individual cases and its Concluding Observations, as well as Canada's deportation of American conscientious objectors to the USA.





Around the sections

Africa

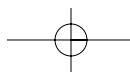
John Muhanji, Director of African Ministries for Friends United Meeting (FUM), writes about just one of the many ways that money donated by Friends in response to the crisis in Kenya has been used.

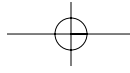
After a very successful mission to Uganda, I received a telephone call from the [Turbo] District Commissioner (DC) at midnight asking me to join him to get the Internally Displaced People (IDP) from the Eldoret show ground to their homes. The DC told me that he had been to the camp and the IDPs were hostile to him because he has not been with them at all. The IDPs told the DC the only people who have been very helpful in ensuring that they resettle to their homes are the District Officer (DO) and the Friends Church. I was very tired and I needed a rest after a long week full of activities, but the DC said, "You have done a lot for these people and I believe you are the only person who could make this day a success". I accepted reluctantly but at the same time I asked God to give me energy and wisdom on how to deal with the situation.

I left very early in the morning for Eldoret showgrounds. I met the DO and DC waiting for me. We went to the camp and met with the people and when I talked and prayed for them, they willingly went and started pulling down their tents ready to leave to their new station closer to their houses which had been destroyed. Lorries (trucks) were provided which carried them to the place. As they were pulling down their tents, we went to see the place where they were relocating. We found that there were no restrooms and water nearby. At this time the DC had left us with the DO. We called the DC and asked him to provide funds for the toilets and water, but he never came to us again. I felt frustrated and I called Eden [Eden Grace from FUM's Kisumu office] and asked her to send me Kshs.40,000 [\$667]. Eden responded very fast, and I started rolling things in action. The toilets were put in place, water was also connected after buying pipes that pulled water which was 200 meters from the location. I also provided food to those people who worked on it. I also enabled the connection of electricity from a nearby hospital which provided light for security. I left the camp at 8.45pm, the camp having water, restrooms and lights in a very short time. The IDPs and the DO felt encouraged and supported and the people felt that indeed the Friends Church is a true peace church that cares for the people. They commented that we have been very helpful in the process and they have seen that we are the only church that has not taken the process for granted but as a duty. They saw integrity in us and wished this church could stay with them all the time. I also used the same money to buy fuel for a government vehicle the DO was using, when it ran out of fuel, to carry logs and other things. They could not get the money from the DC to do anything. I felt encouraged and energised to see that we could offer a new life of hope to people who have been feeling hopeless.

The program which the Friends Church Peace team has been doing has caused a big impact to both the communities of the Kalenjin and Kikuyus. These communities had no clue before that the Friends Church had such values in peace and reconciliation. The DO continued to say, "If it was not for the Friends Church which I have hidden in their wings, I would not have penetrated or made any progress in resettlement of the IDPs".

Friends, your prayers and support have been seen and heard and we hope that you continue with the same spirit of support. There are a lot of responsibilities remaining to ensure that we continue with bonding relationship activities between the communities.





Around the sections

Asia-West Pacific

Section Gathering

The 23rd birthday of the AWPS was celebrated during the Gathering, indicating we are entering maturity and hold our heads up with the older larger Sections of the world of FWCC. For this Gathering was exceptional, with four separate components; the Section Gathering held from 6 to 12 November, the Young Friends and the Junior Young Friends Gatherings, both held from 12 to 15 November, and the Central Executive Committee, which also met from the 12th to the 15th, all in the same building, with the spiritual threads of worship and being Friends binding us together.

Seventy international Friends mixed happily with 42 Indian Friends, whilst 40 Young Friends and 21 Junior Young Friends made for a full house. Friends from all of our twelve AWPS Yearly Meetings and groups were present, along with invitees from Nepal, Indonesia, Africa Section, members of the India Friends Working Group of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, plus the Regional Director of AFSC, Patricia DeBoer and David Atwood from QUNO Geneva.

We now have two new Yearly Meetings- the Philippines Evangelical Friends Church, with 3,500 members and Mahoba True Friends from Uttar Pradesh. We also welcomed an application for affiliation from Marble Rock MM.

A shadow cast over the Gathering was the awareness of serious religious tensions in India between Christians, Hindus and Moslems, leading to persecution and deaths of Christians and the destruction of their homes and churches. We need to hold all Indians in the Light and pray for a peaceful resolution, leading to peaceful co-existence and the ability to live together. The Inter-faith forum at the Gathering was welcomed, where we heard about the efforts being made by Hindus, Muslims and Christians to hold together in the face of extremist elements.

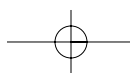
Young Adult Friends made a significant contribution to the main Gathering and, in their meeting forged ties which will ensure they remain viable as a group, with plans for future Gatherings and communication in between.

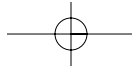
Call for Action on Global Change

We have agreed to establish a Committee to work on the Concern of Global Change with Meetings, Yearly Meetings, Sections, FWCC, other organizations and concerned persons.

News of Meetings

Mid India Yearly Meeting celebrated its Centenary, and welcomed many international Friends from 15 to 16 November at the George Fox hall in Itarsi. This YM which originates from the first missionary who arrived in 1868 has services at six centres, including Meeting for Worship, Sunday school in some and Young Friends groups, managing of Friends schools and a girls hostel. Mid India Friends also do honorary work at Friends Rural Centre, Rasulia, helping to develop accommodation for guests and visitors. In 2007, **Bhopal YM** held a Youth Camp with 20 children and 12 parents





present. They were delighted to be the hosts of this Section Gathering. The membership of **General Conference of Friends in India** is small and widely spread. However they meet and worship together regularly. They are concerned to support interfaith activities. A member took part in the Historic Peace Churches Conference in Indonesia in 2007. The 50th anniversary of GCFI will take place next year, and this will be an opportunity to record the past and prepare for the future. **Bundelkhand** is a growing YM with 2 Monthly Meetings, 4 churches, 3 pastors in Bundelkhand and a membership of 1040. They hold regular programmed and unprogrammed worship and a children's Sunday school at the same time. There are youth groups and women's groups. The YM runs a Hindi school for which they need 8 computers. They are planning to establish schools in three other towns. They have a hospital ministry and provide medical help to the needy.

Hong Kong Monthly Meeting: This small group has welcomed babies and receives many visiting Friends. Two disasters have received their attention: the Sichuan earthquake and the war in Georgia. They sent donations to Friends or charities in these places and have established a Hong Kong Friends Service Fund.

Australia Yearly Meeting: Australian Friends have participated in the preparations for the AWPS Gathering. They have also developed an interactive website for AWPS. A friend from Seoul has been invited to the next AYM in 2009.

Japan Yearly Meeting: Each monthly meeting has been trying different approaches for out-reach, yet questions remain on the purpose of participating in international gatherings and only a handful of members choose to attend overseas meetings. The Friends Center restoration is underway. A Young Friends retreat was held in Tokyo with 30 participants.

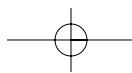
Aotearoa New Zealand: This YM has been greatly challenged and enlightened by Friends working on the issues of Climate Change, Penal Reform, Treaty Relations and Ethical investments. The Young Friends celebrated their first year as a constituent meeting of the Yearly Meeting.

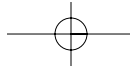
Seoul Monthly Meeting: This small unprogrammed Meeting hosted the AWPS Gathering in 2005. They provide training in peace work, and have a study group on the Journal of George Fox and other Quaker writings. They will participate in the World Philosophy Conference in Seoul later this year, and speak about the life and writings of Ham Sok Hon. Another small meeting has been established in Dae Jon and this meets for worship every second Sunday.

Philippines Evangelical Friends Church: This church began to form in 1978 as an independent Christian group in Metro Manila. It affiliated with Evangelical Friends International in 1979 and has received FWCC visitors over the years. They attended the FWCC Triennial held in Japan 1988, by invitation. PEFC has 27 full-time pastors and churches in many regions. They are thankful to have become affiliated with FWCC.

Nepal Friends Church: There are small Friends Churches around the country and a membership of 2500. It is affiliated with EFI, was represented at the World Gathering of Young Friends, and wishes to know more about Friends.

Friends Church of Indonesia: This began in 1987 when South West YM came to start a new mission field. It now has about 2000 members and 32 churches with 35 pastors. The churches meet together every year and there is a general convention every 5 years. It has recently recovered from a crisis in leadership.





Around the sections

Europe & Middle East Section

Georgia

The biggest event to affect the Section in the summer was the dreadful conflict in Georgia. Mikheil Elizbarashvili, the Clerk of the Recognised Worship Group in Tblisi, kept us in close touch with events, sending us messages and many photos of the devastation caused by the war, and of the relief efforts that the few Friends threw themselves into through their newly established Quaker House Georgia, with financial support channelled through FWCC World Office.

On-line Quakers in Europe Project

EMES held a very productive, week-long translators' workshop at Woodbrooke in July, which gave a huge boost to the efforts going into translating the Introductory on-line course in 15 languages. On-line training of facilitators is now taking place, and we are very hopeful that the first on-line course in a language other than English will start before the end of the year or early in 2009.

Visits and Meetings

Marisa Johnson and Julia Ryberg visited Friends in Turku, Karis and Helsinki in Finland, Tallin in Estonia, Liepaja, Riga and Daugavpils in Latvia, and Kaunas in Lithuania in September. They found a very vibrant and growing group in Turku, and felt hopeful that the new energy that is emerging in Finland will enrich the Quaker presence there, once some inevitable growing pains are overcome. The situation in the Baltic countries is more complex - former hopes and expectations of Quakerism taking root in the Baltic countries may have been over-optimistic and have not continued with the same original energy. The Quaker presence in all three countries remains extremely small and fragile. There are a small number of Friends for whom their personal connection to Quakerism is important, and who have maintained a long and faithful witness.

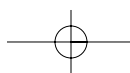
Marisa Johnson also visited the worship group in Bologna, with whom EMES had had very little contact in recent years. Seven people attended Meeting for Worship, five of whom were International Members. The group has been meeting since 1991, very faithfully, but has not grown significantly in this time. Nevertheless, they have kept a Quaker presence in the North of Italy.

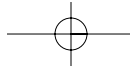
Publications

Jean Zaru's book *Occupied with non-violence* was published. This is a powerful testimony of what it means to witness as a Quaker for 60 years living and working in Ramallah. Details of how to obtain it can be found on the EMES website www.fwccemes.org.

Finances

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust had made EMES a grant which will enable us to continue to develop the Ministry and Outreach work and boost our capacity to deliver our core functions. A new website is in development, and we are now able to pursue the development of the Visiting Friends Programme. A workshop will take place in Sweden at the end of November to take this work forward.





Around the sections

Section of the Americas

Hurricane Ike

The process of rebuilding after Hurricane Ike has begun in Cuba. Taking care of homes is first priority for the country, and Friends are doing what they can in the meantime to make meeting houses usable until supplies become available to fix major damage. During the hurricane some of the Friends churches were used as shelters, and some families left homeless are still living in one of the churches. In Puerto Padre Friends collected clothing and other items and distributed them in one of the areas most affected by the hurricane. Ramón González Longoria, clerk of Cuba Yearly Meeting, writes that worship services and first day school have started again. Messages of hope are shared, "...trusting that He gives us the strength to face this disaster, and that we must take this message to those in need of both the material and the spiritual."

Friends United Meeting (FUM) is now accepting donations for relief work in Cuba, after just receiving an amended license to carry additional funds to Cuba. FUM has had a long relationship with Friends in Cuba. Wilmington YM sent the original Quaker missionaries to Cuba at the beginning of the 20th century. At present FUM regularly sends work and pastoral delegations to Cuba.

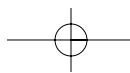
Friends who wish to donate for relief work for Cuban Friends should send a check made out to Friends United Meeting, with 'Cuba relief' in the memo section. Mail checks to: Friends United Meeting, 101 Quaker Hill Dr., Richmond IN 47374. Or make your donation online.

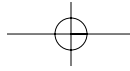
Habakkuk inspires theme for 2009 Section for the Americas Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting 2009, to be held near Portland, Oregon, will draw inspiration for its theme from the book of Habakkuk 2: 2-3: "For there is still a vision for the appointed time". Jan Wood, Northwest YM, will be the keynote speaker. Jan is the director of Good News Associates, a nonprofit Christian ministry organization supporting individuals who are called to non-institutional ministries in the fields of writing, speaking, teaching, spiritual direction, art, music, drama, dance, contemplative prayer and service. Read more about the annual meeting here. Registration will open in November. All Friends are invited to attend.

Youth book project seeks writing and visual art contributions

Friends between the ages of 15 and 35 have until February 28, 2009 to submit their nonfiction writing and visual art for consideration and possible inclusion in the next book project of Quakers Uniting in Publications (QUIP). The book will be assembled by an editorial board of young adult Friends from all branches of the Religious Society of Friends and all over the world. This is the second book containing writings by young Friends and young adult Friends. The first, *Whispers of Faith: Young Friends share their experiences of Quakerism*, was published in 2005.





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.

Method of Payment: cheque or money order to FWCC in £Sterling or US\$ (circle one) or by **PayPal via our website www.fwccworld.org**

Details of Payment:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Total Literature | £/\$ _____ |
| Donation to FWCC general work | £/\$ _____ |
| Donation for particular area of our work, including FWCC Sections | £/\$ _____ |
| _____ (please specify) | £/\$ _____ |
| TOTAL | £/\$ _____ |

Name _____
Address _____

Please tick here if you would like a receipt
(For contributions only)

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.

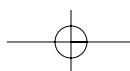
FWCC is a consultative, committee-run, organisation enabling Friends and their yearly meetings to work cooperatively. Yearly meetings and other Quaker bodies affiliate to FWCC through its four sections, Africa (with its office in Nairobi, Kenya); the Americas (Philadelphia, USA); Asia-West Pacific (Australia);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

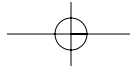
FWCC meets as a world body every three years when the representatives of the affiliated yearly meetings gather for a Triennial meeting which is organised by an International Planning Committee and the World Office in London, UK. FWCC activities and programmes are decided by the Triennial and Section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





World Office Accounts 2007

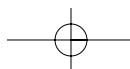
All figures are in Pounds Sterling (£ GBP)

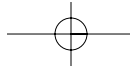
| | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| Income | 2007 | 2006 | Expenditure | 2007 | 2006 |
| General Funds | | | General Funds | | |
| The figures below show the donations received from Friends, Churches and Meetings | | | Personnel Costs | 95,528 | 80,408 |
| Africa Section | 225 | 105 | Staff and Officers Travel | 5,616 | 11,737 |
| Section of the Americas | 63,828 | 62,486 | Communications with Friends | 2,710 | 3,484 |
| Asia-West Pacific Section | 5,820 | 5,426 | Premises | 12,408 | 9,306 |
| Europe and Middle East Section | 64,941 | 67,090 | Central Executive Committee | 1,837 | 12,147 |
| Trust Funds | 34,174 | 48,278 | International Membership Cttee | 697 | 869 |
| International Members | 597 | 352 | Other Committees | 447 | 1,930 |
| Triennial Conference | 127,881 | | Staff Search & Relocation | | |
| Investment Income & Interest | | 4,384 | Publications (Inc. FWN) | 22,856 | 9,862 |
| Other General Income | 1,796 | 69 | Triennial Prep & Running | 179,598 | |
| Total General Income | 299,262 | 188,190 | Other Expenses | 39,527 | 25,612 |
| Designated Funds | 597 | 6,613 | Total General Expenses | 361,224 | 155,355 |
| Total Unrestricted Income | 299,859 | 194,803 | Designated Fund (Triennial Preparation) | | 13,840 |
| Restricted Funds Income | 36,366 | 36,882 | Total Unrestricted | 361,224 | 169,195 |
| Endowment Fund Income | 15,053 | 13,292 | Grants from Endowment Funds | 3,482 | 5,494 |
| Gain on Investments | 15,232 | 11,713 | Restricted Funds Spent | 74,899 | 103 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 366,510 | 256,690 | TOTAL EXPENSES | 436,605 | 174,792 |

Statement of Funds

| | At 1.1.2007 | Income | Investment Gain | Transfers Between Funds | Expenditure | At 31.12.2007 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| General Funds | £70,347 | £307,182 | (£3,174) | £221 | £276,432 | £225,837 |
| Restricted Funds | £43,851 | £36,366 | | (£98) | £74,899 | £5,220 |
| Endowment Funds | £191,756 | £15,053 | | (£123) | £3,482 | £203,204 |
| Total Funds | £433,647 | £225,837 | (£3,174) | | £354,813 | £434,261 |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <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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Visiting Georgia: Observing faith in action

Caroline Tisdall

Beccles Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting (currently living in Baku, Azerbaijan)

The recent conflict between Georgia and Russia in South Ossetia and beyond continues to affect many. Approximately 25,000 Georgians displaced from South Ossetia and Upper Abkhazia are unlikely ever to return home. Many currently live in "Collection Centres" in Tbilisi and other cities such as nearby Rustavi. Recently Misha, clerk of the Georgian Worship Group, and his brother Jimmy took me to visit 7 of the 30-plus Centres Friends have supported. I now reflect on:

- ◆ meeting 82 elderly women who had been imprisoned in South Ossetia for 10 days, one of whom had wandered alone for two days before being rescued by a Chechen, not knowing what had become of her family;
- ◆ the dignity and pride of the people, and the cleanliness and tidiness of each room, in spite of their poverty and the state of the buildings;
- ◆ the anger and distress, and the feelings of extreme loss;
- ◆ the drawings of children expressing the horrors of their experiences;
- ◆ the bright and happy faces of children in the grimmest of centres;
- ◆ a small group of women (and one man) with the Quaker-sponsored psychologist (funded by Friends from Ireland), receiving medication also provided by Friends;
- ◆ a woman of over 80 shivering in a unheated room, wearing only summer-weight clothes; the welcome given by all the refugees we met and their requests to tell their stories beyond Georgia;
- ◆ a Collective Centre coordinator wanting to learn more about Quakers;
- ◆ donated aid displayed for all to see, with the poster of Friends House Georgia behind;
- ◆ and of course the inevitable photos.

I feel humbled by the dedication, care and professionalism shown by Georgian Friends as they offer what help they can, as well as by their strength and resilience. The time taken to meet with officials, talk to coordinators of the collective centres, buy and deliver aid (from FWCC and European Friends Meetings donations), manage the psychologists and, of course, to balance needs of various communities, is considerable. That all this is being done by such a small group of Friends is remarkable.

As the needs of the refugees change, so will what is offered; it is also important to be pragmatic and Friends are already thinking about how they might invest in longer-term projects. Ongoing support from Friends far and wide is therefore welcomed – not only for the refugees but also for the Georgian Worship Group itself.

Friends World Committee
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