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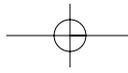
# Friends World News

The Bulletin of the Friends World Committee for Consultation



**Friends World  
Committee for  
Consultation**

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)



## From the World Office

### A shared agenda? A shared voice on global change?

The new century is offering the opportunity to re-visit, re-new, and re-own the distinctive Friends voice that has been the thread through our history. FWCC's mission statement says: *Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.*

In the past, our primary *modus operandi* has been to convene large international gatherings of Friends. Today our response is broader and changing. Face-to-face gatherings, while definitely the most impactful, come with a high price, both financially and environmentally. We've responded by giving ourselves flexibility to gather every 3 to 5 years instead of triennially, so we will have a 5-year period between the Ireland Triennial and the 2012 World Conference in Nairobi.

In the interim, we will use regional clusters of

Friends in our work to find the Friends voice on global change, together with teleconferencing technologies to connect clusters to each other. Another new facet will be on-line study groups both for the global change work and in preparation for the World Conference. These have been working successfully in more than five languages within our Europe & Middle East Section. The possibilities are exciting. Stay tuned!

We are also giving you the option to receive *Friends World News* twice a year electronically instead of through the post. Please let us know by contacting [world@friendsworldoffice.org](mailto:world@friendsworldoffice.org).

With faith and hope,

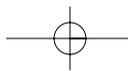
*General Secretary  
FWCC World Office*

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*Cover: Africa Nazarene University, the site of the 2012 World Conference of Friends – See page 3*

*Photo by Nancy Irving*



## Being salt and Light: Friends living the Kingdom of God in a broken world

Plans are already under way for the sixth World Conference of Friends, which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 13 to 21 August 2012. Around 1,000 Friends will gather on the campus of Africa Nazarene University to consider the theme “**Being salt and Light: Friends living the Kingdom of God in a broken world**”.

In deciding the theme, the International Planning Committee (IPC) drew inspiration from several Bible passages, including *Matthew* 5:13 (“You are the salt of the earth...”), *Matthew* 5:14-16 (“You are the light of the world...”), *Matthew* 6:33 (“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God...”), *Matthew* 6:9-13 (the Lord’s Prayer), *Micah* 4:4 (“They shall sit under their own vines and fig trees and no one shall make them afraid.”), and *Micah* 6:8 (“... And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”).

The theme is supplemented by a passage from Luke, 17:20-21. “**The Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed ... the Kingdom of God is among you.**”

The second supporting quote for the theme is from the eighteenth century American Friend John Woolman: “**We have the prospect of one common interest from which our own is inseparable, to turn all we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives.**”



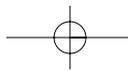
Members of the IPC. (Not shown: Loida Fernandez, Chris McCartney and Jonathan Vogel-Borne.)

“This theme unites the spiritual foundation of our faith with our understanding of the basis of our work in the world in all its diversity,” said FWCC General Secretary Nancy Irving.

The theme will inform the preparation for the Conference, and between now and August 2012 there will be many opportunities for Friends to consider and reflect on it, both individually and in groups. A website, [www.saltandlight2012.org](http://www.saltandlight2012.org), will be created. A study pack will be prepared, and FWCC hopes to offer an on-line course

focusing on different aspects of the theme, as well as other opportunities for Friends to share their views and thoughts. This will lead to a Conference book being prepared which will bring together the various ideas and issues that will be generated. Ultimately, the theme should guide the Conference in discerning concrete ways in which Friends can live the Kingdom of God in a broken world.

The IPC is co-clerked by Pradip Lamichhane of Nepal Yearly Meeting and Liz Gates of Philadelphia YM. The Conference treasurer is Jonathan Vogel-Borne of New England YM. The members are Bainito Wamalwa of East Africa North YM and Rose Imbega of Nairobi YM (the co-clerks of the Local Arrangements Committee), Betsy Coville and Duduzile Mtshazo of Central and Southern Africa YM, Bevar Moodie of Jamaica YM, Ramón González Longoria of Cuba YM, Chris McCartney of Ireland YM and Roger Sturge of Britain YM (as FWCC Treasurer). The secretaries of the four FWCC sections and the Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL) along with the the FWCC Communications Director and General Secretary attend ex-officio.



# Moral Economy Project: *Right Relationship* – *Building a Whole Earth Economy*

Symposium held in Montreal, Canada, 15-16 May 2009  
Sponsored by Quaker Institute for the Future

By Nancy Irving, FWCC General Secretary

I attended this symposium that was designed to showcase a new book called *Right Relationship – Building a Moral Economy*, by Peter Brown and Geoffrey Garver, both Quakers living in Montreal. There were three other unnamed authors Robert Howell (New Zealand), Leonard Lovejoy (British-American) and Steve Szeghi (Wilmington College but not a Quaker). The symposium brought together members of the sponsoring body, Quaker Institute for the Future, and others in the economics and environmental fields from academia, other Quaker organisations and agencies such as UN Environmental Programme and Organization of American States.

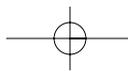
Geoff Garver opened the symposium, after a Mohawk blessing, noting that the book is meant to be a point of departure, a means to test ideas and to help them build alliances.

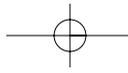
Peter Brown abbreviated his keynote talk after the lengthy blessing, and there were technical difficulties connecting with the UK. The message about changing our paradigm for global change is not new. Albert Schweitzer and others wrote about the need to shift from a focus of “what’s good for mankind?” to “what’s good for all life?” Peter Victor wrote about Managing Without Growth. The consequences of sticking with the old Western pattern of thought (focus on mankind) are now not rhetorical. Our moral system dates from pre-scientific eras and has not been changed by 300 years of scientific discoveries. We can no longer say that humans are the only thinkers; he gave the example of trees whose roots adapt to new information about where nourishment is available and grow accordingly.

Peter Brown wants to see us connect our ethical systems to scientific discoveries. This means redefining ourselves from Masters of the universe to members of the community of living things. It’s a shift from a view of the finite world (we want to win) to an infinite world (we want to keep our genes going). He cited James Carse, *Finite & Infinite Games*, written in the 1980s. The gifts of communion call for a new covenantal relationship, new definitions of “neighbour”, a new sense of grace and to see living processes as a part of securing eternal life.

In response, behavioural economist, John Gowdy of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, noted that the field of ecological economics started about 10 years ago. It sees discounting as an ethical choice – discounting and the discount rate are terms used to give a present value to something in the future. The higher the rate the less the future is worth. The issue in this context is how do we value the wellbeing of future? He helped me understand some economic concepts such as elasticity of consumption: if I earn £1 more, how much better off am I? There’s a point at which it doesn’t make much difference how much more I earn. It relates to answering the question of why we should sacrifice today to protect the world in the future. Current thinking would have us sacrificing today to protect rich people of the future.

The example of the Pacific island nation of Nauru was used several times. It is a small very poor island that was comprised mainly of phosphate. It sold its phosphate over several decades and carefully put funds into a trust for all the islanders. They spent it on a frivolous idle lifestyle while their island



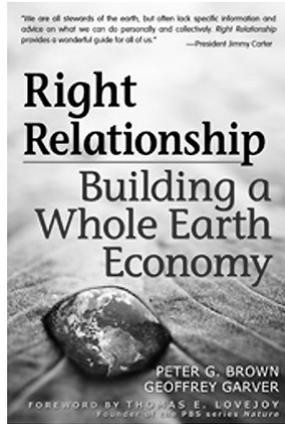


was essentially dug up entirely. As the phosphate ran out, they discovered the trust funds had disappeared and now the island is destitute with no natural resources and no sources of income. It serves as a microcosm of the global economy and what we are doing to our earth.

The Governance Panel moderator was a Canadian politician who was formerly Executive Director of UNEP, Elizabeth Dowdeswell. She noted that our traditional institutions and structures and practices have not kept pace with the rise in expectations of our citizens.

Lynn Jacobs, a Mohawk ecologist, focused on food. Her main point was that Iroquois tribes with their long-house social structure flourished until private land ownership was forced upon them in the 1880s.

Leonard Joy, from Sussex and California, spoke of the inadequacy of global management and the values imbuing that system. He advocates a new global policy management system with global agencies accepting responsibility coupled with monitoring, sensitivity alerts, and networked responses. His view presupposes a change in values.



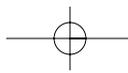
Dan Tarlock, a Chicago law professor, noted we were talking about change on two levels: macro-institutions and micro-individual behaviour. In the last 70 years, law has been separated from morality and we sanction or punish human behaviour only when it harms the individual or society. Environmental law has overlapping stages: top down regulatory law not concerned with individuals; and decentralised markets and incentives to meet environmental norms; and new attempts to engage individuals in environmental protection – how to modify behaviour, what norm do we use for new behaviours? Techniques for making changes are basically either to force compliance or to shame people by disclosing individual bad behaviour or disclosing information to get people to modify their behaviour. However, often

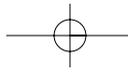
we don't have good information to disclose.

Robert Howell of New Zealand, one of the five authors of the book, opined that we must first deal with ethics then economics then the environment. He pointed out that we must now accept that we will experience a two degree increase in global temperature with all those repercussions, that we have run out of time to make the changes necessary at the international level in the right sort of way. Mitigation itself is simply not sufficient. This means we must consider adaptation regionally and locally even though we need international institutions. Each national regime needs a different type of approach. He thinks the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its structures doom any outcomes, that science and ecology types are talking past each other. He wants ethics discussions to be earth-based not human-based. He argued there is no longer any capacity to accommodate increasing population.

Harvey Mead, a philosopher from Quebec, talked about how the “bad guys” are the ones figuring out how to profit from the crisis and we need to learn fast or we miss the boat. Mitigation is not enough. He urged us to find insertion points in the crisis and use it rather than focus on establishing a whole new order. Our wealthy society has started to value greed. We need to tailor our discourse to what is going on. He sees immigration and eco-migration as insertion points. He pointed out that China tries to control its population growth but India doesn't and that's a big problem.

The luncheon speaker, Scott Vaughn, Commissioner of Environment & Sustainable Development for the Canadian government, expressed his surprise and dismay that environmental policies are rarely tied to any statistics or monitoring. For instance, following Kyoto the Canadian government got concerned about fish habitat but has no system for accounting for reductions due to changes in government policies. Mitigation





doesn't hit the systemic issues. Governments are sending mixed signals. Why the absence of indicators? Is it too difficult or are there groups that simply do not want to be informed? There is a bill before the Canadian Parliament that would define "sustainability" and add measures for monitoring.

The panel on policy issues included Amy Fraenkel, North American Director of UNEP, Ed Dreby of Philadelphia YM and Friends Committee on National Legislation, Steve Szeghi of Wilmington College, and Claudia deWindt of the Organisation of American States.

The OAS is trying to get common understanding in the region about environmental issues before Copenhagen. Their strategy is to focus on procurement, sustainable energy, paper consumption, water, recycling and transport. Amy Fraenkel wants to see an end to the thinking that separates the human system from the environmental system. UNEP wants to tie environmental issues to economic stimulus issues. UNEP is advocating taking 1% of global GDP and investing it in sectors such as renewable energy, agriculture and ecological infrastructure. They also work with developing countries to develop national policies to ensure the right incentives prevail. She noted that polls in the US indicate that the American public don't think the environment is an important issue, that someone else will take care of it. She thinks the lines need to be clearly drawn.

Steve expressed his concern that the disinterested attitudes of his middle America students show the obstacles. The dramatic inequalities show that economic growth is not the solution but it may not be the problem either. He's concerned about the production of so many useless products and urged us to get rid of the notion that we have to maximize anything.

An afternoon speaker talked about mobilising people of faith, noting that 10% of all commercial buildings belong to religious groups. They could be a "green" showcase. Religions also have huge investments – US Methodists have \$66 billion for example. He encouraged us to look at religious teachings, and the green Bible, to reinterpret texts. He noted that evangelicals talk about "creation" when others use the term "environment".

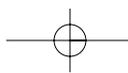
Saturday began with a video hook-up with Bill McKibbett of [www.350.org](http://www.350.org). They are organizing thousands of events for 24 October to present a global sense of people-power before Copenhagen.

By teleconference, Laurie Michaelis of Living Witness Project in the UK. gave an excellent presentation about the situation overall. He had originally been scheduled to be one of the keynote opening speakers but technical difficulties prevented that. He noted the disconnect between people's belief that change must come from the top but government's perspective that it comes from the bottom. His model is that we are the change and can take responsibility for it.

Peter Brown commented more about shifting the paradigm for the economy from an Aristotelian world view to a scientific one, from homocentric ethics to eco-centric ethics, to correlate the Earth Charter with the UN Declaration of Human Rights. He spoke of moving toward an anthropological theory of value (how to say something is good or bad). Progress doesn't require economic growth. Capitalism cannot have infinite expansion.

Akpezi Ogbuigwe, head of education and training at UNEP in Nairobi, noted they concur with the book and see the financial crisis as an opportunity. They have declared a decade of education for sustainable development and are focussing on educating teachers in Africa. They have developed a youth network in many places.

*This report is a personal summary of the presentations. Some of the presentations are/will be available at [www.moraleconomy.org](http://www.moraleconomy.org).*



# Mending the World: A Broken Covenant? Friends' responses to Global Change

## An FWCC Consultation

In response to an ever-growing concern about global change from Friends in many different countries, the FWCC Central Executive Committee is embarking upon a programme to discern the merits of a more coordinated Friends' response and a deeper understanding of the spiritual underpinnings of Friends' witness in relation to global change and its myriad facets.

To aid its consideration of a response to this issue, the Central Executive Committee convened an international ad hoc Feasibility Committee which produced a report for the March 2009 CEC meeting.



The CEC accepted the report with appreciation and decided to move forward with most of its recommendations: to convene regional/local cluster gatherings to hear the voices of Friends impacted by global change and to convene a gathering to discern what Friends can offer this global movement.

FWCC is providing a website to collect links and information about Friends' statements, groups, study packs, and links relating to global change. This website can be found at [www.fwccglobalchange.org](http://www.fwccglobalchange.org).

[www.fwccglobalchange.org](http://www.fwccglobalchange.org)

There is a need for FWCC and Friends to take action. Friends sense urgency in the face of external conditions and the predictions of scientists for disruption. At the same time we see many Friends working in apparent isolation and at times duplicating one another's efforts. Knowing that the Quaker ethic of simple living has in some ways put us in the forefront of thinking and behaviour, nonetheless we feel a desire to empower a radical and deep transformation that delves deeper than outward behaviour and words.

There may be a distinctive Quaker response, not so much some new action to decrease individual contributions to global warming (although these are important), but perhaps in the arena of spiritual grounding and preparation to take action in the face of the upheavals and socio-economic dislocations that may arise. How might Friends embody the spirit of "shalom", the way of peace, which grows out of the abundance of God's love rather than the fear which scarcity engenders, so that all might be treated justly?

*For more on the Consultation and how to participate, please visit [www.fwccglobalchange.org](http://www.fwccglobalchange.org). As the Consultation comes together, more information will be added.*



# Around the sections

## Asia-West Pacific

From the earliest times of our history, Friends have travelled extensively for many purposes. The “face to face” and “heart to heart” contact that ensues is truly an opportunity for the livening of the Spirit during encounters between Friends.

I have just updated the Directory for Travelling Friends in Australia, which is available through Friends Book Sales, email [sales@quakers.org.au](mailto:sales@quakers.org.au) There are so many beautiful places, both countryside and city where Friends live, who are offering short term accommodation. If you wish to travel in this way, please carry a letter from your Meeting or Church, which identifies you as a Friend in good standing. Be a good guest and do not impose on your hosts' hospitality. This travel can be on any level: carrying a concern, on work, or just the pure enjoyment of learning about people, their interests, or difficulties in this vastly shrinking globe.

As Secretary, I have travelled and learned a great deal already this year. In February I travelled to the Philippines to attend the celebrations of the Philippines Evangelical Friends Church's (PEFC) 31st Anniversary. The PEFC has grown enormously in its 31 years and spreads across many areas in the Philippines. They have a ministry of teaching, evangelism and medical assistance to the poor. Their music is a ministry, as it the work with young people, many of whom are training as pastors.

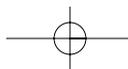
There are also liberal Friends in the Philippines, who had not previously met. The opportunity arose for them to come to gather for their first ever Meeting for Worship at the University of the Philippines. In discussion after Meeting, the f/Friends present, indicated they would like to meet in this way a few times a year. Please pray for both groups in the Philippines, that their faith and witness will bring blessings and peace in this country. Human rights abuses and corruption make difficulties for the people here. For enquiries on future activities of this group, please contact Michael Tan on [vetmedanthro@gmail.com](mailto:vetmedanthro@gmail.com)

The Section Gathering in late March 2011 will take place at a beautiful retreat centre in Manila. We hope that Friends from all over the Section and further will plan to be with us then.

Before the Section of Americas Gathering and CEC Meetings in March, we were encouraged to engage in intervisitation either before or after these events. I chose to visit Friends in Los Angeles, San Francisco and area and Portland, Oregon. Part of my intention was together Quaker study material, suitable for Friends in Asia. I received some from Haggard School of Theology in California and also from George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon. I am now exploring how to distribute this, whether by posting on-line, or sending printed versions on Quaker History, Bible Study, Quaker Testimonies and other topics. Friends interested in obtaining material should contact [valerie@fwccawps.org](mailto:valerie@fwccawps.org).

I was also very interested to travel amongst Friends from all traditions, evangelical, pastoral and liberal, and to see what a difference this makes in deepening the dialogue on our faith, It is like holding up a prism and catching the Light from many directions.

Aotearoa New Zealand Yearly Meeting will celebrate its centenary this July. If you would like to send greetings to this Yearly Meeting, please email [rae.bill@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rae.bill@xtra.co.nz) Those of you at the 2004 FWCC Triennial in Auckland will recall the strength of witness of Friends in peace, global concerns, ethics and reconciliation in Aotearoa and the wonderful scenery of the land.





## Around the sections

In January, Nalini Titus and Ronald Titus from Bhopal Yearly Meeting in India represented FWCC at an EFM Conference in Kerala. This was the first opportunity EFM and FWCC Friends in India have had to dialogue and worship together, although there were language difficulties, as Bhopal Friends speak Hindi and English, whilst, the EFM Friends speak other Indian languages.

### Global Change Committee

Eight Friends from six countries in our Section are members of a committee to assist Friends in working on this concern regarding the degradation of ecosystems and global warming. They will co-operate with other parts of FWCC and Yearly Meetings in this endeavour. They meet by email and teleconference and in particular are looking to find and express a Quaker voice on matters of concern, particularly in our region of the world.

### An Invitation to submit an Essay

“Do you work gladly with other religious groups in the pursuit of common goals? While remaining faithful to Quaker insights, try to enter imaginatively into the life and witness of other communities of faith, creating together the bonds of friendship.” *Advices and Queries of the Britain Yearly Meeting 1994*

The countries represented in the AWPS Section are home to a tremendous cultural, religious and ethnic diversity. While the Religious Society of Friends has over the last few hundred years evolved a distinct character and voice of its own, it can, and should continue to learn from the experiences of people of other faiths, since their cultural and religious practices, beliefs and traditions contain valuable insights into spirituality that can only enrich the worship of Quaker communities in the Asia West Pacific Section.

AUD 2000 has been donated to AWPS to further Friends' learning through the spiritual insights of other religious communities in Asia and the Pacific. Members or Attenders from any of the Meetings in the Asia West Pacific Section are invited to apply to work on a short paper on any aspect of non-Christian mysticism in the Asia West Pacific Region and how Quaker communities here can integrate the working of the Inner Light in these traditions into Quaker worship.

While this is open to all Friends in the Region, it is hoped that Evangelical Friends and Young Adult Friends will take advantage of this opportunity.

For more details and to apply, email Topsy Evans on [tevens@c130.aone.net.au](mailto:tevens@c130.aone.net.au). A short outline of a proposed paper should be sent to the same address by the end of June 2009 and the proposal which best meets the aims of the project will be selected by a committee

If you are interested in learning more about the AWP Section, please visit our website on [www.fwccawps.org](http://www.fwccawps.org)- where the Newsletter and other items will give you the flavour of our work and witness.

*Valerie Joy, Executive Secretary*





# Around the sections

## Europe & Middle East Section

The year began under a heavy cloud, as the horror of the attack on Gaza unfolded. Within the section, we kept a kind of virtual vigil, exchanging reports, news-links, pictures and stories, holding in the Light our Friends in Ramallah – the Monthly Meeting, the Friends International Centre, the Schools and the Am'ari Play Centre – as well as Quaker work through the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme. Most of all, we rallied around Quaker Service Norway and the 13 Kindergartens they support in Gaza. One of these was destroyed, many more damaged. Thankfully the children and teachers were safe, but many lost relatives, and their homes. In the wake of such shocking violence we continue to long for justice and peace to come to all who live in this tiny strip of land. Our Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) will take a dozen people from Yearly Meetings all over Europe on a study tour of the West Bank, and, if possible, Gaza, in June, with a view to bringing solidarity and support to local Friends and Quaker activities, and to discern whether there is scope for it to undertake advocacy work with the European institutions.

## On-line Quakers in Europe Project

Three countries have launched their “Introduction to Quakers” course on-line. The first to go “live” was the Czech Republic with an amazing 24 participants. Norway was next, then France. A number of other countries will begin their courses by the summer. The project continues to attract interest – we may add Italian to the 15 or so languages.

## Visiting Friends Programme

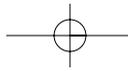
After a very productive workshop held in Svartbäcken at the end of November, resources are being developed to support the equipping of a number of Friends to travel in the ministry on behalf of EMES. We are hoping to support a pool of Friends to undertake this ministry, formally and informally, in the next few years. The resources, which will include advices and queries for both visitors and hosts, will be made available on-line, along with a forum for those who have travelled or are planning to travel.

## Visits and Meetings

EMES arranged a visit by two Russian-speaking British Friends, Marjory Farquharson and Michael Eccles, to Georgia in January. They spent time in worship with the members and attenders of the Tblisi Recognised Worship Group, visiting the projects that Friends have been contributing to through Friends House Georgia. They met some of the refugees that have benefited from the supplies and medical care provided by Georgian Friends, and reported on the deeply appreciated presence of these Friends in a difficult environment.

I went to the Lebanon to visit the Monthly Meeting and the Quaker school in Brummana, in the hills above Beirut. Three families form the core of the small Quaker community in this small and complex country, where religious identity is of paramount importance, and can determine the situation and life chances of an individual. Outreach is not an option, so in order to survive the community needs to be effective in its in-reach, and its witness in the world is mainly expressed through the school.





## Around the sections

Britain Yearly Meeting's Quaker Committee for Church and Interfaith Relations produced a response to the World Council of Churches' Faith and Order Paper 198 "The nature and mission of the church: a stage on the way to a common statement". This is a document that may well be of interest to those engaged in ecumenical dialogue, as it expresses Quaker theological insights into Christian doctrine.

In February we held another very successful training event for European Clerks at Woodbrooke in England. The event ran alongside a meeting of Quaker World Relations Committee of Britain Yearly Meeting, which gave us opportunities for networking.

Former Secretary, Bronwyn Harwood, now a member of Friends House Moscow Board, visited Moscow Friends in March, whilst the Ministry and outreach Co-ordinator, Julia Ryberg, went on a private visit to the Czech Republic during which she met and worshiped with Friends from the Prague Worship Group.

I travelled with Marit Kromberg, our Clerk, to Oregon for the Annual Meeting of the Section of the Americas, which was followed by the meeting of the Central Executive Committee of FWCC. I enjoyed the generous hospitality of Anna and Keith Baker, of North Valley Friends Church, Newberg, and North West Yearly Meeting, who introduced me to many local Friends, and Evangelical Quaker worship. The visit helped me to understand better our Quaker roots and the diversity we have grown into over the centuries.

### Annual Meeting

We met at Moyallon, Co. Armagh, in Northern Ireland over Easter. Representatives came from 17 countries to the lovely Moyallon Centre, a recently built facility adjacent to a Meeting House dating back to the mid-18th Century. The business meeting was concerned with the adoption of the annual report and accounts, the future of the Am'ari Play Centre and a possible Quaker message to the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen in December 09. The gathering focussed on the inward and outward movements of the Spirit, taking the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10-38:42 as the basis of reflections arising from personal experience and artistic expression through art and drama.

At the time of writing this report, Young Friends from Europe and the Middle East are in Damascus, Syria, for their Spring gathering.

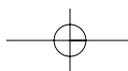
### Website

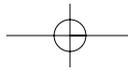
The new website has been launched on our normal domain, [www.fwccemes.org](http://www.fwccemes.org).

### Finances

The Section ended 2008 with a small deficit of £4,000. The budget agreed for 2009 at the Annual Meeting requires that £13,000 additional income be found to break even. Like everyone else, we are watching with some trepidation the unfolding of the economic situation in the world and expect to be affected by it, but continue to plan our work as led by the Spirit.

*Marisa Johnson, Executive Secretary*





# Around the sections

## Section of the Americas

In the last few months we have seen the biggest melt-down of the global financial sector that most of us have lived through. Institutions are folding, retirement savings are shrinking, and those who support organizations like ours with their investment income currently have losses, not gains. It is easy to feel that we are on shifting sands. Yet we know there is a different reality – at our core we know that the only safe rock is God. So we need to acknowledge the reality of the ways in which we are being buffeted because we are in the world, but also the hope we have because we are not of the world.

Friends gained the trust of others by being counter-cultural and being careful and scrupulously honest. That's how Friends became the founders of a large life insurance company and several banks in Britain. And it's important for us to remember the testimonies of integrity and simplicity, to work together and call on our inward strength. I have hope for the future because of these strengths. A large part of the funds we raised during our campaign is tucked away for the future – planting trees that will give shade twenty years from now.

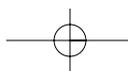
However, the current reality is that we rely heavily on the contributions of Friends from their investment income, not only to pay our own bills but also to provide almost half of what the World Office needs to fund its own work and that of some other parts of FWCC. With so many of these donors not able to support us in the ways we had budgeted for, we have had to make some painful changes which include laying off two staff.

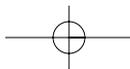
The good news is that our fundraising campaign of 2005-8 helped grow our annual fund, replacing the supporters who were with us from the 1930s and '40s and who have now been lost to us with new supporters. In many cases donors have increased their level of giving. New sustainers have signed up, offering predictable income flow. (Sustainers are those who make regular electronic monthly or quarterly payments.)

One of the things we were doing before the financial storm came was getting clearer about what our core work was, and examining what needed to change. We are almost through the challenging tasks of restructuring our governance so it is simple and clear, and reflects our priorities. We have halved the number of standing committees, and we are now able to allocate indirect costs, including staff time, to work carried out, and our future financial reports will reflect our program priorities. This will help us know what our programs really cost.

An important benefit of all the effort will be the ability to focus on the work that reflects our mission. One of the most exciting developments is a new website under construction, called Voices of Friends, which will help shift the Wider Quaker Fellowship program's focus to a web-based portal through which inquirers can access a range of published materials and blogs. This is a return to Rufus Jones' original vision for the program, as an outreach to non-Friends. This is just the beginning of a major work to rethink what we do and what are the most effective ways of doing our particular pieces of work in the Quaker world.

*Margaret Fraser, Executive Secretary*





## Around the sections

### Africa Section

Some examples of projects with which Friends are involved in the Africa Section.

#### Women in Dialogue

Women in Dialogue is a group of women whose husbands are genocide suspects and widows from the genocide. Each group has 30 members. Each woman involved in the group already has her own small business, such as selling beans, corn, or different articles at the market. The plan for these groups is to begin with a workshop on how to manage a loan. Then each woman will come up with a business plan which will specify her anticipated expenses and income and net profit. This business plan will be approved before the loan is given, and when the loan is given it will be given in stages. Once the women demonstrate that they are able to manage the loan and are consistent with repayment, the loan can increase up to the maximum of \$105.

#### Bugamangi Friends Women Group

Thirty women, members of Vihiga Yearly Meeting, are participating in this one-year project. The women are peasant farmers who wish to begin poultry keeping, grain/cereals sales, firewood sales and milk goat-rearing. They currently contribute Ks 2.50 per month to merry-go-round [savings program] and charge interest of 4% per month on those loans. For the proposed projects they will pay 2% per month interest. The revolved funds will be given to new applicants within our church, non-members in the community, and those members who will have fully paid their loans and seek new loans to expand more or venture into new activities.

#### Misikhu Village Friends Women Group

Fifteen women, United Society of Friends Women members from East Africa Yearly Meeting (North), will participate in this one-year project. The women are divided into four groups, each group to implement one project; maize sales, poultry-rearing, dairy, napier grass-raising. Loan repayment, at 2% per month interest, will be begin after a two month grace period. rest per month.

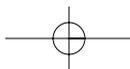
#### Wakaleka Friends Women Group

Twenty-seven women from Vokoli Yearly Meeting, divided into three group of nine members each are participating in this one-year project. Members will be divided into three sub-groups of nine people with each group having a project of either firewood sales, grain/cereal sales or poultry-keeping. There will also be a revolving loan fund for other small businesses. All loans will be paid at 24% annual interest.

#### Mudete Friends Women Group

Twenty-two women from Chavakali Yearly Meeting are participating in this one-year project. They are currently involved in small-scale businesses funded through monthly contributions of \$2.50. Seven women will engage in the mushroom production, seven in fish farming, and eight in a tree nursery.

*Information from Right Sharing of World Resources, [www.rswr.org](http://www.rswr.org).*



### Some Yearly Meetings in the second half of 2009

July 8-12	<b>North Carolina (Cons)</b> , University of NC, Wilmington, NC
July 9-12	<b>Aotearoa/New Zealand</b> , Scots College, Auckland, NZ
July 12-19	<b>North Pacific</b> , University of Montana, Missoula, MT
July 18-21	<b>Evangelical Friends Church - Eastern Region</b> , Malone College, Canton, OH
July 19-25	<b>New York</b> , Silver Bay Association, NY
July 22-26	<b>Ireland</b> , Lisburn, Northern Ireland
July 23-26	<b>Alaska Friends Conference</b> , Dickerson Friends Center, Wasilla
July 23-26	<b>Indiana</b> , Quaker Haven, Syracuse, IN
July 21-August 1	<b>Britain</b> , York
July 21-August 2	<b>Central</b> , Central Friends Campground, Muncie, IN
July 26-30	<b>Northwest</b> , George Fox University, Newberg, OR
July 28-August 7	<b>Iowa (Cons)</b> , Scattergood Friends School, West Branch, IA
July 29-August 1	<b>Iowa (FUM)</b> , William Penn College, Oskaloosa, IA
July 29-August 2	<b>Ohio Valley</b> , Earlham College, Richmond, IN
August 1-6	<b>New England</b> , Bryant University, Smithfield, RI
August 3-9	<b>Baltimore</b> , Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD
August 4-9	<b>Ohio (Cons)</b> , Stillwater Meeting House, Barnesville, OH
August 7-9 (TBC)	<b>Finland</b> , Nordiska Folkögskolan, Kungälv (near Gothenburg, Sweden)
August 14-16	<b>Jamaica</b> , Shortwood Teachers' College, Kingston
August 14-22	<b>Canadian</b> , Kemptville College, Kemptville, ON
August 20-25	<b>France</b> , Pontmain, near Fougères
August TBC	<b>All Kenyan YMs</b>
September 4-7	<b>North Carolina FUM</b> , Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC
November (TBC)	<b>Honduras</b> , Campamento Peniel, Gracias, Honduras

#### 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.

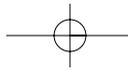
FWCC is a consultative, committee-run, organisation enabling Friends and their yearly meetings to work cooperatively. Yearly meetings and other Quaker bodies affiliate to FWCC through its four sections, Africa (with its office in Nairobi, Kenya); the Americas (Philadelphia, USA); Asia-West Pacific (Australia);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

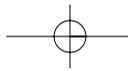
## Contributions/Order Form

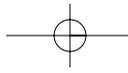
FWCC relies on contributions in order to carry out its ministry. To contribute to the work of FWCC please fill in the form below, indicating the amount of the contribution and your method of payment.

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 <b>PayPal via our website <a href="http://www.fwccworld.org">www.fwccworld.org</a></b></p> <p>Details of Payment:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">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><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£/\$ _____</b></td> </tr> </table>	Total Literature	£/\$ _____	Donation to FWCC general work	£/\$ _____	Donation for particular area of our work, including FWCC Sections	£/\$ _____	_____ (please specify)	£/\$ _____	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£/\$ _____</b>	<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"/> (For contributions only)</p>
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<p><b>SECTION OF THE AMERICAS</b> 1506 Race Street Philadelphia, PA, 19102, USA E-mail: <a href="mailto:americas@fwccamericas.org">americas@fwccamericas.org</a> Phone: +1 215 241 7250 Fax: +1 215 241 7285 Executive Secretary: Margaret Fraser <a href="http://www.fwccamericas.org">www.fwccamericas.org</a></p>	<p><b>WORLD OFFICE</b> 173 Euston Road London NW1 2AX, UK General Secretary: Nancy Irving E-mail: <a href="mailto:world@fwcc.quaker.org">world@fwcc.quaker.org</a> <a href="http://www.fwccworld.org">www.fwccworld.org</a></p> <p>From <b>OUTSIDE</b> the United Kingdom call Phone: + 44 207 663 1199 Fax: + 44 207 663 1189</p> <p>from <b>INSIDE</b> the United Kingdom Phone: 020 7663 1199 Fax: 020 7663 1189</p> <p><b>U.K. Charity 211647</b></p>	<p><b>EUROPE &amp; MIDDLE EAST SECTION</b> 22 Percheron Close Impington Cambridge CB24 9YX E-mail: <a href="mailto:emes@fwcc.quaker.org">emes@fwcc.quaker.org</a> Phone: +44 1223 479585 Executive Secretary: Marisa Johnson <a href="http://www.fwccemes.org">www.fwccemes.org</a></p>
<p><b>AFRICA SECTION</b> PO Box 41946 Nairobi, Kenya E-mail <a href="mailto:mmusonga@yahoo.com">mmusonga@yahoo.com</a> Phones: +254 2 570 077 +254 2 567 601 Executive Secretary: Moses Musonga <a href="http://www.fwccafrica.org">www.fwccafrica.org</a></p>		<p><b>ASIA-WEST PACIFIC SECTION</b> 17 Bourelet St Tarragindi Qld 4121 Australia E-mail: <a href="mailto:awps@fwcc.quaker.org">awps@fwcc.quaker.org</a> Phone +61 7 3342 4887 Executive Secretary: Valerie Joy <a href="http://www.fwccawps.org">www.fwccawps.org</a></p>





## Georgia relief work

The clerk of Friends House Georgia, reports that they had spent £11,000 by 22 November 2008, and that a further £5,500 has since been spent on the relief work for refugees.

The relief work included delivering of the aid directly to refugees living in the shelters and long term relief projects for refugees. From your donations Friends House Georgia implemented a medical assistance programme for refugees and they opened a small soup kitchen in one of the shelters, where they feed 10 refugees of 18 who live there, of which six are children and one is an invalid. They get two meals each day, six days a week and enough food for the seventh day which they cook themselves. The food they get from World Vision is enough for the other eight people in the shelter.

The refugees are in the high risk group for diabetes. It is very important to diagnose diabetes in the first stages of development and start treatment. Friends provided the diagnostic for diabetes to 800 refugees in four months. They found 72 people who had a high level of glucose in the blood. They were sent to the neighbourhood polyclinic or hospital for further treatment.

Using an electrocardiograph bought with donated funds, a volunteer cardiologist continued to diagnose and help people with the heart problems. He has diagnosed and helped to more than 150 people since December 2008. Approximately 120 refugees received general medical assistance between January 2009 and May 2009.

Friends also gave hygiene products, heaters, food for children and other aid to refugees living in shelters.

## Friends' witness in Georgia and Kenya, 2008

Kenya has the largest number of Friends in the world, and there have been Quakers there for more than 100 years. The Quaker group in Tblisi, Georgia, is one of the smallest and newest. In 2008 both countries were riven by violent conflict and Friends in Kenya and Georgia are helping to pick up the pieces, offering both relief and peace-making, as Friends have so often in the past. Friends in other parts of the world have responded quickly and generously to this witness by sending donations to FWCC World Office for transmission to the Friends Churches Peace Teams in Kenya and Friends House Georgia. Thank you Friends.

The World Office is happy to provide a channel for these "pass through" funds, but FWCC's role is not to carry out relief and reconciliation on your behalf. Our income is given us for our mission of linking and encouraging Friends around the world. We do, therefore, have to cover the cost of handling the transactions, in administrative time and bank charges, by making a charge of 5%. It would generally cost as much for individual donors sending smaller sums through the generally available commercial channels, and sending funds via FWCC ensures that the funds go to the Friends' work you wish to support.

*Roger Sturge, FWCC Treasurer*

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