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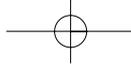
# Friends World News

The Bulletin of the Friends World Committee for Consultation



**Friends World  
Committee for  
Consultation**

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)



# From the World Office

## Threads

It takes a variety of threads to make fabric and FWCC is fabric in the making. Right now the major threads are planning for the World Conference in 2012 and activating the cluster process of our consultation on Friends' responses to global change. Both are getting stronger, more colourful, more textured – and more entwined. It is exciting to watch this fabric take shape.

Yearly meetings have been asked to designate their allotted delegates to the world conference by the end of this year. The International Planning Committee, co-clerked by Elizabeth Gates of Philadelphia YM and Pradip Lamachhane of Nepal YM, has met at the site Kabarak University near Nakuru, Kenya and developed a structure for the programme centred around worship and our experiences of the theme: Being salt and light: Friends living the Kingdom of God in a broken world. Participants on site will explore the many dimensions of this theme over the course of the week and discerning what we as Friends may have to say about it. Friends elsewhere can join on-line study groups. Gradually more information will be available on the website: [www.saltandlight2012.org](http://www.saltandlight2012.org)

The first global change clusters have been held and word is getting out among Friends world-wide. We want groups of almost any size to consider the same six queries and provide their responses, either in minutes, or in rough notes, or by video. What do

Friends have to say on the spiritual dimensions of this global issue? Regional coordinators are being identified, and in the meantime, clusters may take place at any time. Funding permitting, more yearly meetings can receive staff support locally. Responses are being gathered on the website: [www.fwccglobalchange.org](http://www.fwccglobalchange.org).

FWCC has numerous other threads, some more visible than others. These are called Quaker UN work in New York, Geneva and Vienna, international membership for isolated individuals and growing groups, and continuing networking among Friends organisations and yearly meetings.

With this fabric coming into being, FWCC is becoming more visible to new faces in the Quaker world. We are more than just travelling ministers and conference planners. FWCC strives to address contemporary needs in its special way as opportunities arise. We hope FWCC is relevant to your spiritual life! Do you want to become involved in ours? Let us know.

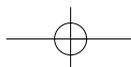
General Secretary  
FWCC World Office

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Cover: *The family of Mario Colque outside church, El Alto, La Paz, Bolivia. See page 4.*

*Photo by Nancy Irving*



## Join the worldwide consultation process on Global Change

The purpose of this Consultation is discernment of how Friends respond to global change. We see environmental, climate, economic, and social change as interconnected, and part of a single change that we call 'global change'. We ask ourselves how we have been affected by change, how our faith sustains us, how our lives may be contributing to the causes of positive and adverse changes in the world today. It is our desire that as many Friends as possible participate in this process, seeking to discern how we might live in right relationship with creation and with each other.

### The Consultation Process

FWCC's global change Consultation is a process of listening to Friends' discernment from around the world. We invite you as individual Friends and as Friends Meetings and Churches to join in this worldwide process of worshipful discernment.

### Cluster Gatherings

The first step is to organize or join a cluster gathering in your community. In these gatherings, we hear and record the voices of Friends sharing how our lives have been touched by global change. From these shared stories, we seek to discern how we can live in right relationship with creation and with each other.

In the Cluster process, Friends respond to six queries. We then seek to discern the essential messages and themes of the clusters. This discernment process will carry forward to a world Consultation to be held in late 2011. The outcome will be presented at the Sixth World Conference of Friends in Kenya in 2012.

### Steps in the Consultation Process

- ❖ **Cluster Gatherings: Local and Regional meetings of Friends.**
- ❖ **Cluster Deepening: A discernment and dialogue process follows the clusters**
- ❖ **World Consultation: Held in late 2011.**
- ❖ **Friends World Conference, Kenya 2012**

Visit our Consultation website at  
[www.fwccglobalchange.org](http://www.fwccglobalchange.org)

Contact project staff and volunteers at  
[info@fwccglobalchange.org](mailto:info@fwccglobalchange.org)

To organize or facilitate a Cluster gathering contact  
[samuel@fwccglobalchange.org](mailto:samuel@fwccglobalchange.org)

### Queries on Global Change

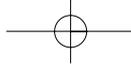
1. **How has global change affected our communities and ourselves?**
2. **What actions have we taken in response to global change as experienced in our area, to express our responsibilities towards all creation? In what ways have my own activities or those of my community contributed to positive or adverse local and global change?**
3. **How do changes around us affect our relationship with God? How does my relationship with God affect my responses to the changes around us? What role does faith have in my life and in the life of my community? In what ways do I and my Friends church or meeting community bear witness to our Testimonies in our daily lives?**
4. **What stories or experiences from past times of catastrophic happenings – perhaps from Scripture, perhaps from the record of local or regional events – might inspire us to respond to the changes the world is facing today?**
5. **How can we bear witness to the abundance God offers us and testify to the world about ways in which justice, compassion, and peace may address significant disruptions, stress, and tensions?**
6. **How can we support one another in rekindling our love and respect for God's Creation in such a way that we are messengers of the transforming power of love and hope?**

We invite you to support this project through your participation and financial contribution to make possible the participation of others.

FWCC World Office

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## Visiting among Friends in Bolivia and Peru

*Louise Salinas, Associate Secretary, Section of the Americas*

Imagine you are the clerk of your yearly meeting. You have two international visitors coming who want to meet with Friends not only in your yearly meeting but in other yearly meetings and even a neighboring country. Would you take two weeks off from your paid employment, suspend most of your work as clerk, leave your family at home and embark on a 500+ mile trek to 'show them around?' And would you do that in the two weeks prior to your own yearly meeting's annual sessions??

That is just what Jesus Huarachi did for Nancy Irving and me in January 2010. Jesus is the presiding clerk of the yearly meeting in Peru and Coordinator of the Section's Committee of Latin American Friends (COAL) South America region. Except for a few days acclimating to the altitude in Sucre, Bolivia, he arranged every detail of our visits and traveled with us. He prepared local Friends to welcome us – and they did that with joy and graciousness. While so many Friends that we met expressed their appreciation for our taking the time to visit them, the blessings were ours. Wherever we went, we were introduced with fanfare as FWCC visitors from abroad. I can think only of positive, favorable words to describe my experience.

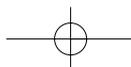
Each time Nancy or I spoke, the messages we delivered on our shared Quaker heritage were like the keynote address we heard at the National Evangelical Friends Church (INELA) Bolivia sessions: delivered in Aymara with a bit of Spanish thrown in here and there, it was hard for the non-Aymara speakers in the audience to understand. Without a solid understanding of what makes Quaker evangelicalism different from other evangelical or Pentecostal churches, I wonder how much our messages, based on the history of Friends, meant to those who heard us speak. One yearly meeting, Bible Seminary National Evangelical Friends Church, is in the midst of figuring out if it still is a Friends church. Their Quaker connections and influence come mostly from the past.

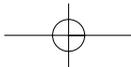
The Friends church in Bolivia began when missionaries from a yearly meeting that embraced the Holiness movement – what is now Central Yearly Meeting in Indiana, USA – traveled there in the early 1920's. About ten years later, evangelical Friends missionaries from then Oregon YM (now Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends) arrived. Today there are two holiness tradition yearly meetings: Bolivian Holiness Mission Evangelical Friends Church and Central Evangelical Friends Church of Bolivia. Northwest YM still maintains connections with the groups it founded, the National Evangelical Friends Churches in Bolivia and Peru. Three other yearly meetings evolved from splits with their group in Bolivia: Bible Seminary National Evangelical Friends Church, Star of Bethlehem Evangelical Church and Bolivian Union Evangelical Friends Church. The latter yearly meeting has applied for affiliation with FWCC in 2010.

Everywhere we went, what we heard most from Friends was how necessary it is to have more information – through speakers, publications, or other ways – that reaffirm the Friends connection in the yearly meetings in Bolivia and Peru. Younger generations in particular have a clear hunger for knowing why they are Quaker and what that means for daily living. Pentecostals, other evangelicals, Baptists, and other denominations have a strong presence in Bolivia and Peru and are drawing Friends into newer congregations and livelier ways of worship.

In Peru the trend is that younger Friends are leaving their rural homes for urban areas where education and work opportunities are more readily available. This means that the traditional stronghold area – in the Altiplano, along the shores of Lake Titicaca – is losing its youth to the cities. Nancy and I spoke at two rural churches and hardly a young adult was seen, despite the fact that schools are on vacation in the month of January. But the consequence is growth and opportunity in urban areas, such as Arequipa and along the coast.

Bolivia's situation is different, since most Friends already are in urban areas. When Margaret Fraser and Loida Fernández visited La Paz in 2004, they wrote about El Alto, a growing city high above La Paz at the edge of





the Altiplano that seemed ripe for church growth. El Alto's population outnumbers that of La Paz. My sense was that the struggle to keep membership here is again due more to the draw of other evangelical or Pentecostal groups. The largest yearly meeting in Bolivia, Bolivian Holiness Mission Evangelical Friends Church, surprised us with the news that they have lost almost half of their membership – about 10,000 people – in the last decade or two. They are seeing their youth leave for churches that are much less conservative than their own. In light of Bolivia's military service requirement for young men, and the educational opportunities that come as a reward, Holiness Friends' conservation of the Peace Testimony has had the unintended consequence of contributing to membership loss.

Before we had even visited any Holiness churches in this particular yearly meeting Nancy and I were told about some of their common practices. These include not permitting hand-clapping in church; limited contact between men and women while in church; and limiting the use of certain types of musical instruments. After visiting, though, we recognized that changes have in fact come about. The young Friends we spoke with were more open, and at ease with some of the previously-prohibited behaviors.

Political changes have brought about new demands on all churches in Bolivia and it would seem that all six yearly meetings would benefit from working together as a unified body of Friends. The country is no longer a church-state, with Roman Catholicism as the official religion. We learned that Bolivian Friends had actually felt a kind of security under this arrangement, a security that is now gone. Evo Morales' government has requested detailed information from all churches in Bolivia, including bylaws and lists that name members. Yearly meetings are uneasy about providing this information. Of most concern is whether the government will find fault with any bylaws that don't meet government standards such as balance in male/female leadership roles. At the very least, this is causing a great deal of extra administrative work for all.

Opportunities for raising awareness of the wider world of Friends, and FWCC, will continue to grow as more and more Friends in Bolivia and Peru enter the internet age. We saw signs of this everywhere. Younger Friends, like youth in other parts of the world, already have an expanded world view. Internet cafes abound in the cities and most towns. A meeting arranged for us with all seven yearly meetings of Bolivia and Peru was video recorded by a Holiness Friend, and several days later he gave us a DVD of the event. But it would be incorrect to assume that a majority of Friends of any age are connected electronically. We recognized that a lot of communication in Peru and Bolivia still needs to be done by paper.

Being physically present where Friends are enlightens one to many issues that might not otherwise have been well understood. The Section has responded over the years to COAL requests for workshops on

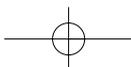


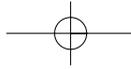
Greetings from Iglesia Santidad, El Alto, La Paz, Bolivia, 10 January 2010.

*Photo by Nancy Irving*

Quaker distinctives. It seems that Friends are asking for more. How much should be an FWCC initiative, and how much other Friends groups would be willing to take on, is a question that needs to be asked.

I am grateful for the opportunity to travel with Nancy Irving and to contribute to Friends' understanding of FWCC and the world of Friends beyond South America.





# QUNO Reports

## QUNO Geneva

The work of the Quaker UN Office in Geneva continued in 2009 with a great range of activity along its three principal programme areas—Human Rights and Refugees, Global Economic Issues, and Disarmament and Peace. Staff wish to bring to the attention of Friends the following “highlights” from each of these areas:

### Global Economic Issues

Caroline Dommen began in March 2009 as Representative for Global Economic Issues. She has been developing a refocused programme in this area and three priority areas now shape the work of this programme: food, migration, and climate change.

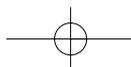
The role of intellectual property (IP) in agriculture is becoming the subject of increased attention. From food security to climate change adaptation, from biological diversity to rural communities, IP is contributing to shaping the future of the international food system, including the availability of the food we eat and the diversity of species cultivated in the world. In September 2009, QUNO organized a panel discussion, gathering leading experts to describe how current IP trends in agriculture affect sustainability, diversity and equity in food production. The full audio of the panel is available at [www.wfo.org/english/forums\\_e/public\\_forum09\\_e/programme\\_e.htm](http://www.wfo.org/english/forums_e/public_forum09_e/programme_e.htm), and a written report is available from QUNO Geneva.

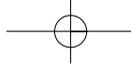
Among the activities of the programme, QUNO with the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development organized in March 2010 the first ever NGO-organized panel discussion about the work of the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV). UPOV plays an important role in the protection of plant varieties by means of an intellectual property right. The four speakers on the panel were Bell Batta Torheim, of the Norwegian Development Fund, member of the Norwegian government delegation to UPOV; Daniela de Moraes Aviani, Coordinator of Brazil's National Plant Variety Protection Service (SNPC); Sandy Marshall, Senior Policy Specialist with Canada's Plant Breeders' Rights Office; and Atul Kaushik, Director of the Geneva Resource Centre of the Indian NGO Consumer Unity and Trust Society. The panel discussion was well-attended, with Geneva-based delegates, national authorities concerned with plant breeding, NGOs, the private sector and academics. To date, technical experts (agronomists, plant breeders, industry, etc) are the main participants in UPOV meetings, resulting in a system that is somewhat dissociated from other discussions about intellectual property, food security and biological diversity. One of the aims of QUNO's work in this area is to stimulate broader discussion about UPOV and the IP system it promotes, in particular by bringing the technical experts together with governmental delegations and NGOs.

The GEI programme is also looking at agriculture trade policies as they affect food security, as well as climate change-related migration.

### Human Rights and Refugees

Building on the joint work on women in prison of FWCC representatives to the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna) and QUNO-Geneva, the UN now has a new set of draft Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders. QUNO has been involved at every stage, participating in the expert meeting that developed the first draft, in the inter-governmental meeting that refined this, and in side events in Vienna and Geneva. By the time you read this, all being well, the draft will have been supported by the UN Crime Congress in Brazil where QUNO will be on the panel for another presentation of the Rules and the rationale for them. QUNO has also been continuing its work on children of prisoners, and in addition to the UN angle on this, is now engaged in a three-year, 10-member consortium EU funded research project on mental health of children of prisoners in Europe with ground-breaking in-depth research being undertaken in Germany, Romania, Sweden and UK. Work on conscientious objection to military service appears to be bearing fruit in Colombia with a ruling from the Constitutional Court that this is protected under the Constitution (reversing their position from the 1990s): the change of position was probably a result of the UN Human Rights Committee's position that





conscientious objection is covered by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. QUNO had worked with other non-governmental organisations inside and outside Colombia to present the information about the international recognition of conscientious objection to the Court. Rachel Brett as Representative for Human Rights and Refugees has been assisted in her work during 2009-10 by Jennifer Rosenberg and by Holly Mason-White.

### **Disarmament and Peace**

QUNO continued across a broad range of disarmament-related concerns, especially work on small arms and light weapons. A range of meetings in preparation for the 4th Biennial Meeting of States on small arms (June 2010) have been held. A main focus of work has been in the building civil society engagement with issues related to the closely-related issues of armed violence and development (or lack thereof). QUNO works in a collaborative and supportive way in the promotion of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development (see [www.genevadeclaration.org](http://www.genevadeclaration.org)) and is currently much involved in work related to bringing armed violence prevention and reduction concerns to bear on the "review summit" in September 2010 on the Millennium Development Goals. The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform (which QUNO co-directs with 3 other Geneva organizations) has become an increasingly visible factor in Geneva-based considerations on peacebuilding as it relates particularly to the work of the UN in "post-conflict" settings. This new Geneva capacity has proven useful not only to Geneva-based actors working on peacebuilding concerns, but also beyond, particularly to the UN New York which is the home of the UN Peacebuilding Commission. IN this QUNO-Geneva is working closely with QUNO-New York in seeking to advance and strengthen UN peacebuilding programming. David Atwood, director of QUNO is also in charge of the Disarmament and Peace programme. He has been assisted in 2009 – 10 by Adam Drury and Tom Richardson.

For more information about our work please contact us at [quno@quno.ch](mailto:quno@quno.ch) or visit our website at [www.quno.org](http://www.quno.org).

### **QUNO New York**

QUNO New York's main areas of work are currently on peacebuilding and prevention of violent conflict.

Over the past few months, QUNO has been working to identify how Quakers can best support the UN's growing prevention mechanisms. In January we hosted a series of meetings with member states, UN staff and non-governmental organizations on peace making processes in Somalia. Visiting experts were able to highlight the ways in which the as yet unsuccessful national peace process can draw from experiences at the local level, where traditional, consensus-based approaches have allowed Somalis to re-establish security and governance in their communities with a large degree of success.

QUNO has been focusing on Burundi for several years now, as one of the four countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. Our work is greatly helped by the presence of several Quaker service agencies working on the ground in Burundi providing a link to expertise and insights not easily available in New York. Regarding the Peacebuilding Commission more broadly, QUNO is actively participating in its first 5 year review, making the case for an increased emphasis on restorative processes and reconciliation in its activities.

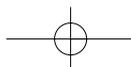
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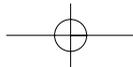
### **Interpreters and translators for the World Conference**

Interpreters and translators are needed for the 2012 World Conference of Friends. **There is an urgent need for French, Spanish and Kiswahili translators (from English) to begin work on Conference materials and other documents. A fee will be paid. Email [world@friendsworldoffice.org](mailto:world@friendsworldoffice.org) if you are interested.**

During the Conference, and for pre and post events, we need people who are competent in the above languages (especially Kiswahili-Spanish interpretation). Those who can provide simultaneous interpretation at the plenary sessions and document translation will have their way to the Conference and all Conference fees paid. We also need people willing to provide informal interpretation for individuals and small groups throughout the Conference. We are not able to pay for these people to attend, but if you are willing to offer this service, you will be given priority consideration for the open places.

See page 16 for information about the Conference. To register your interest in attending as a translator/interpreter, please email [coordinator@saltandlight2012.org](mailto:coordinator@saltandlight2012.org) or contact the World Office (details on page 15).





## Around the sections

### Africa Section Triennial

by Harry Albright

The Africa Section Triennial meeting was held at Mabanga Agricultural College, near Bungoma in Western Kenya, from 12 to 16 May.

Friends from the section were joined by a larger than usual number of visitors, as the International Planning Committee for the 2012 World Conference of Friends (see page 16) had met just prior to the triennial, and the FWCC Central Executive Committee (CEC) was to meet just after it. Most Friends from both committees also attended the triennial.

The theme was "They will listen to my voice and become one flock" (John 10:16). There was a theme exploration in the plenary sessions each day, led by Humphrey Barasa.

Nancy Irving, FWCC General Secretary, gave a talk on the second day entitled "The People Called Quakers". She explored the diversity of Friends' experience, practice and theology around the world.

#### Africa Section report

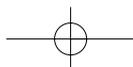
There was also a report on activities in the section over the past three years by Section Secretary Moses Musonga. He used a map to show where Friends in Africa are concentrated, In Kenya, most Friends are concentrated in Western Kenya. "You can hardly go five or six kilometres before you move to another Yearly Meeting," said Moses. Then there is Nairobi YM, which stretches from Nairobi north to Nakuru and Kericho and southeast to Mombasa. There are Friends in Uganda, mainly concentrated around Mbale. Moses noted that there have been Friends in Tanzania for a long time, mainly concentrated around Lake Victoria, and the Section Office has been working to develop Friends groups elsewhere in the country. However the group in Pemba no longer exists. Quakers in Rwanda are "growing very fast" from a base of about 7000. They are spread across the country with the largest numbers in Kigali. Burundi has a large number of Friends in most parts of the country. There has been a Friends' presence there since the 1930s, and there are now about 30,000 Quakers in Burundi. There are Friends in eastern Congo with small numbers in Kinshasa and Brazzaville. The Congolese Friends are separated by vast distances and each group is completely autonomous. There are small numbers of Friends in southern Africa and isolated members and groups in Nigeria, Ghana and other parts of western Africa. "That constitutes Africa Section", said Moses.

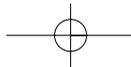


Outgoing Section Clerk Gladys Kang'ahi and her successor, David Bucura of Rwanda Yearly Meeting.

Between Section Triennials, the Section is run by an Executive Committee of about 15 members drawn from the yearly meetings, and various sub-committees which report to the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary is a full-time employee, based at the Section Office in Ngong Road, Nairobi. He is assisted by a full-time secretary/bookkeeper.

"The Section Committee has a programme. They meet three times a year, and make decisions on behalf of the Section," said Moses, noting that the Executive Secretary reports on progress made since the last meeting. "During these meetings, the committee receives reports from the Secretary, from the Treasurer and from the sub-committees. They also make future plans. They advise and guide the Executive Secretary on all matters and issues which pertain to the functioning of the Section." Each year, a minutes booklet is produced.





## Around the sections

Moses spoke about the core activities of the Section, which he divided into three main categories. "The first is communication and administration. These are activities which are office-based. We have tried our best to move to a modern way of doing things, so we are using information technology as much as possible. I know that many of our yearly meetings don't have these facilities, but we try as much as possible." The gaps can be filled using text messages on mobile phones, which most people own. "That is a modern way of communicating, instead of writing a letter. By using these methods, we managed to set up a group in Tanzania, through email communication, and now we have a church that is growing very fast in Tanzania."

The second core activity is travelling in the ministry. "We consider this as one of the most important aspects of our work. Whenever funds are available, we try as much as possible to visit Friends and meet them face to face, handle issues and challenges on the spot and witness what is going on on the ground. So whenever we make trips to visit Friends we should have a purpose." Moses said that the travel in the ministry had been extended by organising a pilgrimage trip to Israel. "We are planning this year to have another trip to the furthest part of Tanzania to meet a group there."

The third core function is networking. "In our Section, we are blessed to have three flavours of friends, the unprogrammed Friends, the programmed Friends and the Evangelical Friends. We also have numerous Quaker agencies who do activities on the continent. We have tried as much as possible to network with each one of these groups. We have also tried to connect them with each other, and it has worked." Moses noted that there are two main Friends organisations, Friends United Meeting (FUM) and FWCC, based in Kenya. "The yearly meetings we work for are the same yearly meetings the FUM Africa Ministries work for, so we have tried as much as possible to cooperate and network, and where necessary we have travelled together and shared information, as opposed to duplication and competition, and done joint activities."

Moses told Friends that the Section has developed a three-year strategic plan, and "it covers all the objectives and activities for the three years in detail. This exercise is participatory. We involve the Executive Committee members right from the beginning."

The Section staff are formally appraised each year. This is carried out by the Section Clerk and one or two other members of the Executive Committee. "This helps the staff member to plan for the coming year." There is also a personnel handbook.

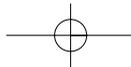
Internal control measures have been instituted, especially for financial matters. "We have put in place guidelines on how we handle our finances in the office, so that anybody coming in who wants to look at our accounts, they are always ready. Our auditing is done every beginning of the year," Moses said.

The secretaries from the other three sections also spoke during the triennial, introducing their sections, talking about the work of FWCC in other parts of the world and sharing with African Friends something of the experience of Friends in the Americas, Asia-West Pacific and Europe and the Middle East.

Jocelyn Burnell, clerk of the CEC, supported by three other Friends, also gave an overview of the work of the World Office, including the International Membership Programme and the plans for the 2012 World Conference. Kenyan Friends are very excited about hosting this international gathering and look forward to welcoming Friends from around the world.

Major changes were made to the section committees at this triennial. Gladys Kang'ahi will retire as section clerk later this year, and David Bucura, of Rwanda Yearly Meeting, was appointed as her successor.





# Around the sections

## Europe and Middle East Section

The past six months saw the celebration of two important milestones: 30 years since the foundation of the Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) in Brussels last October, and 100 years since the dedication of the Meeting House in Ramallah in March 2010.

Though in very different circumstances, both events provided opportunities for visits and reunions, much rejoicing, reflection, remembrance of Friends who are no longer with us, and searching questions about the future. A point of connection between the two events is that, for the first time since its creation, QCEA has embarked upon a programme of advocacy with the European institutions on the issue of the on-going military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and how this affects the status and human rights of Palestinians.

This work was discerned as a priority following a study tour of the region which QCEA organised in June 2009, in collaboration with the Friends International Centre in Ramallah. A consultation about the role and work of this Centre took place after the Centennial Celebrations. This sent out a heartfelt plea to Friends everywhere to take action to stop the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in the Occupied Territories and Gaza, and suggested adopting some of the Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions called for by the Kairos Palestine document published by the Churches towards the end of 2009.

Seven new Friends came into International Membership last October – four in Georgia, two in the Canary Islands and one in Israel. Czech Friends obtained Recognised Meeting status.

The Annual Meeting of EMES has just taken place at Haus Venusberg, Bonn, Germany. The theme was: "Midwives of the Spirit: accompaniment, nurture and discipline through Eldership".

We were fortunate in having Jenny Routledge of Britain Yearly Meeting, and her accompanying elder, Elaine Emily from Pendle Hill, who helped us to explore the nature and gifts of eldership. We experienced a tangible difference in the depth and quality of our Meetings for Worship for Business, thanks to the careful use of eldership, and shared rich ministry in words, song and laughter, as well as refreshing silence.

Please read more about all of these events on our website: [www.fwccemes.org](http://www.fwccemes.org).

### On-line Quakers in Europe Project

We have just completed an initial evaluation of this project, with Woodbrooke. This shows that the project is very much valued. There are a number of messages to extract from the feedback that has been received, to use in the future development of the project.

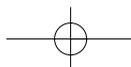
### Visiting Friends Programme

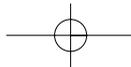
A small group that has been meeting regularly in Vilnius in Lithuania for over a year was visited in March by Julia Ryberg and Brian Fynn, a Friend from Denmark. Julia was given the opportunity to give a public talk during the visit, which was attended by a dozen or so interested people.

A Meeting for Learning will take place in Svartbäcken in June, and will offer an opportunity to share some established spiritual tools, such as meetings for clearness.

### Visits and Meetings

As well as travelling to Ramallah for the Centennial celebrations and to Bonn for the Annual Meeting, I attended residential meetings of Quaker World Relation Committee and Quaker Committee for Interchurch and





## Around the sections

Interfaith Relations. Both are large Committees of Britain Yearly Meeting, the largest Meeting in our Section.

Julia Ryberg gave an address on "Growing the Quaker Tree" at a Meeting of London Quakers at Friends House in London in March.

Although Julia Ryberg visited Friends in Denmark recently, she could not attend their Yearly Meeting, which took place at the end of March, and neither could I. Nancy Irving will be attending Ireland Yearly Meeting, which takes place just a week after the Annual Meeting of EMES.

Julia Ryberg and I plan to attend as many other Yearly Meetings in session as possible in the coming months.

### Peace and Service Consultation

The Consultation took place in Kortenberg, Belgium, from 6th to 8th November 2009, on the theme: "But they shall sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid." (Micah 4.4).

One of the practical actions that arose from the meeting was that Quaker Service Norway has taken over the management of the Ama'ari Play Centre in Ramallah from the Section, which remains responsible for its governance.

### Website and Publications

Following the success of our website, work on Phase II development has started. This is going to explore options for providing further services, for example:

- ❖ install forum software, and configure this to facilitate announcements & discussions and provide downloadable documents, according to different user groups;
- ❖ add new sections/information to the website, accessible only to specific user groups;
- ❖ provide a newsletter facility via the website to send newsletters to different user groups;
- ❖ a simple event management facility to provide registration by form to email, with the registration details automatically being stored in a database table when the person registers.

*Among Friends* was published in November 2009 and February 2010, both issues are available on the website.

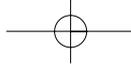
### Finances

2009 out-turn showed an expenditure over income deficit of £8,000, less than the £12,000 that had been budgeted for, and off-set by capital appreciation of the funds kept as reserves. These, however, are still 20% below the purchase cost.

We are very grateful indeed to have been awarded a new grant from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust of £161,000 which, over 39 months, will secure the work of the Ministry and Outreach programme and contribute 30% towards our core costs, which are attributable to the programme. Whilst this is wonderful news, the need to boost core funding to meet planned expenditure remains a big preoccupation.

**Marisa Johnson**  
FWCC-EMES Executive Secretary





# Around the sections

## Section of the Americas

### New directions for the Section's work

During the second half of 2009 we considered at length how to move the Section of the Americas forward as a vibrant, sustainable, and relevant organization in the years to come. We affirmed that our purpose is "to facilitate communication and understanding among the various branches of Friends." We also felt called to organize local events to facilitate a dialog about what our faith and our testimonies lead us to do in mending a broken world, and to make these gatherings accessible to all Friends – to "bring FWCC to where Friends are."

At our March 2010 Annual Meeting the Section approved a proposal for a concerted effort to engage the greatest number of Friends through a series of local events over the next two years. The 2012 World Conference of Friends presents a once-in-generation opportunity for us to connect with the wider world of Friends. With this in mind, our focus will be on holding many local events throughout North, Central and South America based on the World Conference theme of Being Salt and Light: Friends living the kingdom in a broken world.

Representatives at the Annual Meeting were energized by the 'rightness' of this new direction, and staff are eager to begin this new chapter of our work.

### Friends and the Haiti earthquake

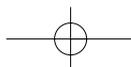
The number of Friends who receive our electronic newsletter, now in its fifth year, has steadily increased. When disasters such as the devastating January Haiti earthquakes occur, we work to inform Friends when Quakers around the world are affected and how they can be supportive. We reported on which Quaker groups or agencies were receiving donations. We also shared the news that some relatively new groups of Friends are living in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, affiliated with Evangelical Friends Church – Eastern region yearly meeting.

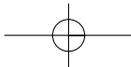
### Latin America: visits, workshops, peace conference

Friends in Bolivia and Peru welcomed several FWCC visitors in recent months, including General Secretary Nancy Irving and Section of the Americas Associate Secretary Louise Salinas. Nancy and Louise met with representatives from all six yearly meetings in Bolivia, and one in Peru, for an informative session on the life and issues of Friends in these countries, and attended two yearly meeting sessions.

The Section also sponsored the travel of Benigno Sanchez-Eppler, who was accompanied by Brian Drayton, both from New England YM, and who spoke to young adult Friends. Their message and presence was still being felt months afterwards. In February another workshop for writing as ministry was held in Guatemala, led by Hal and Nancy Thomas of Northwest YM. More workshops are planned for 2010 and 2011, some in conjunction with the Salt and Light theme.

Much behind-the-scenes work has been taking place over the past year in preparation for Hunger for Peace: Faces, Paths and Cultures; A Conference of the Latin American Historic Peace Churches. This is the fourth and final of a series of Historic Peace Church Conferences, set for November 28 – December 3, 2010 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The conference will contribute to preparations for the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation which will take place in 2011 and conclude the Decade to Overcome Violence. FWCC committed all of its remaining peace funds to this effort and connected Latin American Friends with the planning group.





## Around the sections

### Asia-West Pacific Section

We frequently reflect on having the largest geographical area, but the smallest number of Quakers of the four Sections. However, it is in Asia and Asia Minor that all of the major world religions developed- Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, to mention the major ones. Our Quaker faith and practice is largely derivative of the cultures of the West- Europe and America, and some of us have sought to discover new ways of interpreting our testimonies and thinking to allow Light to flow from Asian spirituality.

In 2005, at the Section Gathering in Seoul, we heard the legacy of the Korean Quaker thinker Ham Sok Hon, and particularly about Minjung theology, which renews our awareness of the suffering Christ and its qualities for redemption.

In 2008 at Bhopal in India, we received an anonymous gift and subsequently advertised an AWPS Essay Competition, which would seek to draw together two threads of Quakerism and an Asian religion.

The successful applicant was John Cartwright, an isolated Australian Friend, who spent time in four countries researching the links between contemporary Buddhist practice and Quaker belief. The work, which will soon be on the AWPS website is titled *Courageous Spirit*, and will also appear in printed form. It will take readers into new areas of thinking. His Holiness the Dalai Lama is quoted as saying:

Human beings naturally possess different interests and inclinations. Therefore it should come as no surprise that we have many different religious traditions with different ways of thinking and behaving. People eat rice because it grows best where they live, Not because it is either any better or worse than bread.

*Courageous Spirit* is dedicated to the work of FWCC, AWP Section, who strive to keep alive the Quaker spirit in Asia and to the known and unknown Quakers in Asia who stand daily with a courageous spirit and will be the leaders at the frontier of social change.

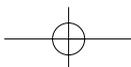
Courage is needed in full measure in the near and mid future, as Asian countries may be amongst the hardest hit by global changes in weather, food production, political instability, and availability of water and other necessities. The AWPS response is emerging deeply throughout our meetings and churches, with cluster groups being established, and projects to raise awareness and mitigate the devastation caused by natural causes multiplying across our region.

### Update on the Philippines Friends

Readers will recall the graphic photos of the aftermath of typhoon Ondoy and floods in the Philippines, which caused enormous damage to life and property in 2009. Friends around the world expressed their care and generosity by donating quite significant sums to assist with immediate food and water relief, emergency medical assistance and some rebuilding of property. It was also used for post trauma counselling to workers, in the areas hardest hit. Three Filipino Friends visited Australia Yearly Meeting in January, when plans were developed to use the remaining funds for work with the environment, refuse collection and recycling and tree planting. They formed an organisation titled "Quaker in Action Philippines".

Another group has been funded in Bohol, south of Manila, under the direction of an unprogrammed Friend, Boni Quirog. They are combining interfaith understanding with participation in environmental programs.

Manila Section Gathering: It is not too soon for Friends worldwide to plan attendance at the next AWPS Section Gathering at Manila in 2011, from 1-7 April. Registration Forms are on our website ([www.fwccawps.org](http://www.fwccawps.org)) and early applications are welcomed. A Study Booklet on the theme: Faith and Action is also posted on our website, and readers are encouraged to download this and to use it for personal reflection, or group discussion. The program is an exciting one, with keynote speakers, Janet Scott from Britain Yearly Meeting and Professor Paul Anderson from George Fox University in Oregon, USA. Come and see for yourselves what is being achieved in the Asian Quaker world, and enjoy the beauty of the Philippines landscape. Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan Friends are also looking forward to Friends visiting them before or after the Gathering.



### Some Yearly Meetings in the second half of 2010

July 9-12	<b>Aotearoa/New Zealand</b> , John McGlashan College, Maori Hill, Dunedin
July 14-18	<b>North Carolina-Conservative</b> , Guilford College, Greensboro, NC
July 14-18	<b>North Pacific</b> , U of Montana, Missoula, MT
July 16-20	<b>France</b> , St. Thomas Centre, Strasbourg
July 17-20	<b>EFC-Eastern Region</b> , Malone University, Canton, OH
July 18-24	<b>New York</b> , Silver Bay Association, NY
July 22-25	<b>Alaska Friends Conference</b> , Wasilla, AK
July 22-25	<b>Wilmington</b> , Wilmington College, OH
July 25-29	<b>Northwest</b> , George Fox University, Newberg, OR
July 26-31	<b>Pacific</b> , Claremont McKenna College, CA
July 27-Aug 1	<b>Iowa Conservative</b> , Scattergood Fr School, West Branch, IA
July 28-Aug 1	<b>Ohio Valley</b> , Earlham College, Richmond, IN
July 28-Aug 1	<b>Philadelphia</b> , DeSales University, Center Valley, PA
July 29-Aug 1	<b>Lake Erie</b> , Bluffton University, Bluffton, OH
July 29-Aug 1	<b>Indiana</b> , Quaker Haven, Syracuse, IN
July 29-Aug 1	<b>Iowa - FUM</b> , William Penn University, Oskaloosa, IA
July 30-Aug 2	<b>Western</b> , Plainfield, IN
August	<b>All Kenyan YMs</b> – Check with the Section Office
Aug 2-8	<b>Baltimore</b> , Frostberg State University, Frostberg MD
Aug 5-8	<b>Rocky Mountain</b> , Quaker Ridge Camp, CO
Aug 7-12	<b>New England</b> , Bryant University, Smithfield, RI
Aug 9-14	<b>Ohio (Conservative)</b> , Stillwater Meetinghouse, Barnesville, OH
Aug 13-15	<b>Jamaica</b> , Shortwood Teachers College, Kingston
Aug 13-21	<b>Canadian</b> , Winnipeg, Manitoba
Sept 3-6	<b>North Carolina FUM</b> , Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC
Nov 4-7	<b>German</b> , Bad Pyrmont, Germany

#### 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.

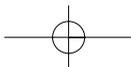
FWCC is a consultative, committee-run, organisation enabling Friends and their yearly meetings to work cooperatively. Yearly meetings and other Quaker bodies affiliate to FWCC through its four sections, Africa (with its office in Nairobi, Kenya); the Americas (Philadelphia, USA); Asia-West Pacific (Australia); 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 yearly. 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 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 – *New Edition* (£5/\$8)
- (9) Friends Around the World (£12/\$20)

## 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.

If you would like to know more about legacy giving, please tick that box.

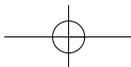
To order any of our publications: Circle the appropriate number on the list and enclose it with the form below to the World Office, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2AX, UK.

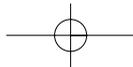
Publications will be shipped with no additional charge. Fill in the form below, indicating the total cost of the items and your method of payment.

Method of Payment: cheque or money order to FWCC in £Sterling or US\$ (circle one) or by <b>PayPal via our website <a href="http://www.fwccworld.org">www.fwccworld.org</a></b>		Name _____
Details of Payment:		Address _____
Total Literature	£/\$ _____	_____
Donation to FWCC general work	£/\$ _____	_____
Donation for particular area of our work, including FWCC Sections	£/\$ _____	_____
(please specify)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£/\$ _____</b>	

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

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## 2012 World Conference of Friends

Plans are well underway for the 2012 World Conference of Friends, to be held at Kabarak University, near Nakuru, Kenya. Yearly Meetings are now deciding who will attend. If you are interested, there are two ways:



Kabarak University

1. **As a delegate selected by your yearly meeting.** A mailing has gone out to each yearly meeting (whether or not affiliated with FWCC) advising them of the number of delegates they are entitled to send. They have been asked to let the World Office know if they will use all

these delegate spaces by the end of September 2010 and to provide the names of the delegates by December 2010. At that point in time, the World Office will send those delegates registration forms. Each yearly meeting determines how it will name its delegates. So contact your yearly meeting soon!

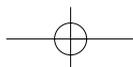
2. **Via an Open Place.** There will be 300 spaces reserved for Open Place applicants plus any spaces not used by yearly meetings. Applications will be available from the World Office or via [www.saltandlight2012.org](http://www.saltandlight2012.org) as of September 2010.

**Registration fees:** Registration fees include fees, room and board for the duration of the conference. This includes a one-day outing in the middle. For the first time, they will be tiered based on the GNP and PPP of the country you come from. The top tier is estimated to be GB£525 (about US\$850 or Can\$820). The fee structure will be finalised in 2010. The lowest tier will be £20. Everyone will be expected to pay a 'fair share'. There will be the usual "Travel and Accommodation Fund" to assist those from the poorest countries. **Your financial contributions to this fund are needed.**

Delegates' primary expenditure besides the registration fee will be for transportation to and from Kenya. The Local Arrangements Committee will also offer pre-conference and post-conference opportunities to visit yearly meeting sessions or to tour other parts of Kenya, including a safari. There will be costs involved in those choices as they are not included in the registration fee.

**For more information, contact:**

**FWCC World Office**  
 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2AX, UK  
 +44 (0)207 663 1199  
[info@saltandlight2012.org](mailto:info@saltandlight2012.org)  
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