From the World Office

“...like yeast...”

In Matthew 13:33, Jesus teaches us: He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.” With the Kingdom being part of the theme of the 6th World Conference next April, it’s timely to remember all the parables Jesus gave us about the kingdom to help us understand his teaching. In that one chapter, he gives us about ten ways to envision the Kingdom. The image of yeast working in dough is one I can relate to most closely. George Fox took great inspiration from these parables and called us to live the Kingdom every day.

Travelling among Friends in Bolivia last year, I was asked if I believe in the Rapture and I had to admit that I didn’t know. I responded that we are called to live the Kingdom everyday and that is what I try to do. If indeed the Kingdom is like yeast worked all though the flour, then it is integral to our lives, not an hour or two on Sunday. Like kneading bread, it takes a lot of effort and persistence and faith.

My hope for the 6th World Conference next April is that it will act as yeast within the Religious Society of Friends. One thousand of us, together for eight days, in prayer, worship, sharing, and conversation, can produce a great deal of energy to take back to our churches, meetings and families. Who knows what may arise from this mixture?

I look forward to whatever may come. I know it includes identifying my successor who will be challenged to take this inspiration and energy forward for the coming years. What a great way to start! What role may you be playing? Be mindful of Jesus’ guidance not to hide your light under a bushel basket!

With faith and hope,

[Signature]

General Secretary
FWCC World Office

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Cover: From left to right, Jaime Tabingo, Lydia Tabingo, David Evans. Taisoo Kim Watson, Topsy Evans, Anna Dunford and Dilawar Chetsingh. See page 8.

Photo by Jim Palmer
Conference travel fund twinning programme

Would your meeting or church be willing to help expand our collective life story by supporting the travel costs of someone to attend the 6th World Conference of Friends?

While all participants will pay their "fair share" registration fees, some will find the transportation costs to Kenya difficult to raise. In order to enable Friends from as wide a variety of backgrounds as possible to attend, FWCC is raising money for a Travel Fund, and we are asking meetings to consider twinning with another meeting or church that is struggling to find the funds to send its full complement of delegates. Or perhaps your meeting might want to support an isolated individual Friend.

Costs include:

- Airfares
- Inoculations and other medical requirements
- Visas

The FWCC World Office has a list of meetings and churches that would welcome being twinned. Please write to travelfund@saltandlight2012.org or to the World Office (address on page 15) for more details.

This is a unique opportunity for your meeting to forge an ongoing relationship with Friends in a different part of the world.

We also welcome contributions from individuals.

World Conference open places still available

Expand your identity as a Friend, as a Quaker. Feed your sense of adventure – spiritually and literally. Meet family members from around the world

How?

The 6th World Conference of Friends

Where?

Kabarak University, near Nakuru in Kenya’s Rift Valley

When?

17 to 25 April 2012

- Open to 1000 Friends/Quakers
- Tiered fee structure based on country of residence
- Theme: Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a broken world
- Worship, singing, small groups, thread groups/workshops on the theme, special interest groups, excursions
- Opportunities to visit Kenyan Friends before and after the conference and for safaris or other activities (extra cost)
- A once-in-a-generation event. The last one was in 1991. Don’t miss this one!

Let God work in your life in the company of Friends/Quakers from around the world

Apply at www.saltandlight2012.org or write to Friends World Committee for Consultation, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2AX UK. More information from registrations@saltandlight2012.org.
Could you be FWCC’s next General Secretary?

The current FWCC General Secretary, Nancy Irving, will complete her service and retire next year, and the Central Executive Committee has begun the search for her successor.

Perhaps you may be interested or you can think of someone who might be interested in service in this way. Detailed information on the position, the skills required and how to apply are available at www.fwccworld.org.

Briefly, the General Secretary works in partnership with the four geographical sections and the Central Executive Committee to carry forward the work and mission of FWCC. The four primary areas of work are connections and communications among Friends, Quaker United Nations work, ecumenical work through Christian world communions, and office administration.

Based in London, the position entails extensive international travel, speaking to Friends groups of all sizes, networking and a great deal of written communication. Fluency in English and willingness to live in the greater London area are required.

This search is an international one. There are three committees involved at the different stages of the process.

First, there is a Search Committee, clerked by Dudu Mtshazo of South Africa, with members from all parts of the world. Their task is to make sure people are aware of this unique opportunity of service. But you don’t have to wait to hear from one of them to apply! The deadline is 1 November 2011.

The second committee is the Short-listing committee, clerked by Ray Treadway from North Carolina, USA, which will take each letter of application and compare it with the requirements of the position to develop a list of between three and six people to be interviewed. Members of this committee come from Japan, Germany, the UK, USA, Kenya, and Australia.

Finally, the Interview Group will conduct interviews in early January 2012 in London. Its members are Jocelyn Burnell, Rachel Bewley-Bateman, Gladys Kang’ahi, Dilawar Chet Singh, and Lon Fendall. They will make a recommendation to the Central Executive Committee which, in turn, will make a recommendation to the International Representatives Meeting portion of the World Conference in April 2012. Funding permitting, the successful applicant will begin as Associate Secretary in mid-2012, becoming General Secretary in January 2013.

The ‘person spec’, and other information about the post and how to apply, is available at www.fwcc-world.org, or from the FWCC World Office, 173 Euston Road, London, UK NW1 2AX. The deadline is November 1, 2011, which will be strictly observed.

Nancy Irving is available to field your questions at nancyi@friendsworldoffice.org.

New Executive Secretaries for Africa and the Americas

Churchill Malimo has been appointed the Executive Secretary for the Africa Section. Churchill comes to FWCC from the management team of Nairobi Yearly Meeting. He succeeds Moses Musonga who has retired.

Robin Mohr has succeeded Margaret Fraser in the America’s following Margaret’s retirement. She has been the director of development of the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network since 2008. Robin has written extensively in Quaker journals, facilitated many workshops and is a leader in Convergent Friends, which facilitates communication among Friends.
Churches seeking the Way of Peace

Gordon Matthews, Britain Yearly Meeting

Ten Quakers were fortunate to be amongst nearly 1,000 participants at the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC) which was held 17-25 May 2011 in Kingston, Jamaica. The two other historic peace churches, Mennonites and the Church of the Brethren, were also represented at this major event. We witnessed the world’s churches coming together on the road to becoming living peace churches. The Constantinian churches seem to be abandoning their just war doctrine and moving towards just peace.

In a keynote speech Paul Oestreicher, who is both a member of Britain Yearly Meeting and a canon in the Church of England, called on the churches to work towards the abolition of war by making the prosecution of war illegal. He said: “The survival of our planet demands nothing less than the abolition of war.” Tim Seidel, peace secretary of Mennonite Central Committee, said that our goal should be to outlaw war within ten years.

Dutch Quaker Kees Nieuwerth led a workshop entitled “The Responsibility to Witness: The Historical Peace Church Testimony towards Peacebuilding” and called for an ecumenical peace council to be held in 2021.

The IEPC, organised by the World Council of Churches (WCC) to mark the end of the Decade to Overcome Violence, was a forward-looking event. The final Message calls on the ecumenical movement as a whole – and particularly those planning the WCC Assembly of 2013 in Busan, South Korea, with the theme God of life, lead us to justice and peace – “to make Just Peace, in all its dimensions, a key priority”.

Four major themes, Peace in the community; Peace with the Earth; Peace in the market place; and Peace among the peoples, were explored in small bible study groups, worship, plenary sessions, seminars, workshops and cultural events.

Nonviolence, the effects of climate change, economic justice and the UN doctrine of “Responsibility to Protect” were amongst the major issues under discussion. Both Kees Nieuwerth and I report on these discussions in articles on the FWCC-EMES website.

After the IEPC how can we Quakers help the churches along the road towards becoming living peace churches?

By getting up to speed with where things are at in the ecumenical movement. Read: “An Ecumenical Call to Just Peace”, which was published by the WCC prior to the Convocation; Paul Oestreicher’s keynote speech; and the IEPC Message. All are available at www.overcomingviolence.org.

By working within local councils of churches. They could reflect on the IEPC Message. If possible, arrange a meeting with a participant in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). Or there may be local or national conflicts which your council of churches might usefully address in order to identify opportunities for nonviolent intervention. You will find this work within local, regional and national councils of churches easier if Quakers already play an active part in the life of the churches.

By contributing to the on-going discussion within the WCC in the run up to the next Assembly in Busan in 2013.

By being willing ultimately to give up our special status as historic peace churches.

At the Busan Assembly, the God of life might then lead the world’s churches to take another big step along the Way of Peace. Let’s help them – and us – to be open to God’s leadings.
QUNO Reports

Quaker United Nations Office (Geneva)

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) Geneva is the organisation working on behalf of Friends worldwide at the UN and other international institutions in Geneva. Across our three programmes, our eight staff work to further issues of concern to Friends through ‘quiet diplomacy’.

2010 was another busy year for our Human Rights and Refugees programme. December brought the adoption of new UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, known as the ‘Bangkok Rules’. QUNO has been raising the particular needs of women prisoners since 2004 and the new rules, which Rachel Brett was involved in developing and drafting, mark the culmination of this work.

Our work on children of prisoners has grown over the course of the year. We welcomed Oliver Robertson, a former PA, back to QUNO in the role of Programme Officer to lead our contribution to the EU-funded COPING project on the mental health of children of prisoners. The Committee on the Rights of the Child also agreed to select ‘children of incarcerated parents’ as the theme for their 2011 Day of General Discussion. QUNO is heavily involved in preparations for the day, with Oliver convening the NGO working group on the issue.

The Global Economic Issues programme continued to develop under Caroline Dommen, who commissioned a study on the role of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) in intellectual property and seeds. The study, to be published in February 2011, has already raised awareness about UPOV among delegates in Geneva, which contributed to the landmark decision in October to admit not-for-profit NGOs as UPOV observers for the first time.

QUNO has also been developing its work on the human impacts of climate change, looking particularly at the effects of a changing environment on migration and how all those involved – migrants, receiving communities and those left behind in the communities of origin will manage. QUNO is exploring gaps in the international protection regime for vulnerable migrants and refugees, and working with faith communities on how they can respond to climate change and migration.

Work on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development continues as a major strand of our Disarmament and Peace programme under David Atwood. QUNO coordinates civil society engagement in the Declaration process, which in 2010 included participation at the World Urban Forum in Brazil in March and the organisation and coordination of regional workshops in Latin America and Eastern Africa for civil society organisations actively engaged in armed violence reduction programmes.

QUNO also continued to drive progress on disarmament machinery, the arms trade and biological weapons through our Geneva Forum partnership. QUNO was heavily involved in small arms processes, working with governments and others to ensure an effective 4th Biennial Meeting of States on small arms and light weapons. The Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, of which QUNO is a founder member, undertook a broad range of initiatives in 2010 aimed at the strengthening of UN peacebuilding machinery.

As ever, our annual summer school brought a large group of joyful, interested and engaged young people to QUNO to spend a fortnight studying the UN and other international agencies in Geneva. Shortly afterwards, our Programme Assistants Holly Mason-White and Tom Richardson moved on, replaced by Carolan Goggin and Aoife Reaper-Reynolds in September.

This will be a year of change as our Director, David Atwood, retired in June. We were sad to see David leave, and are glad to have found an excellent replacement in Jonathan Woolley, who has moved to Geneva from Mexico.

Quaker United Nations Office (New York)

During the post-election violence in Kenya that took place in late 2007 and early 2008, Kenyan Quakers formed Friends Church Peace Teams (FCPT) to address problems brought about by the violence. Work included provision of humanitarian relief and accompaniment of internally displaced persons. In their peacebuilding efforts, FCPT decided to concentrate on Turbo Division in the Rift Valley Province, which was particularly affected by the post-election violence. In Turbo, FCPT have helped to start the Turbo Division Interfaith...
Peace Task Force and have begun a non-violent conflict resolution project with youth.

Given the experience of this important community-level work, QUNO-NY was honored to host a visit by Getry Agizah, Coordinator for FCPT, during March 2011. Getry spent two days in New York as part of a larger month-long speaking tour in the United States. The visit provided an opportunity for QUNO-NY to organize a series of informal Quaker House conversation with UN staff and representatives of non-government organizations (NGOs). During the meetings, Getry described FCPT’s activities in the past and highlighted plans for the future. She placed great emphasis on the need for support to civic education, reconciliation activities, and work with youth. During the coming year, FCPT plan to focus its efforts on Turbo Division to demonstrate how it is possible for community-level work to prevent violence in advance of the next Kenyan election in 2012.

The conversations provided an opportunity for a rich exchange of information and ideas. UN staff were eager to learn from Getry’s experience and they shared details on UN efforts in country which include a conflict early warning system being supported by UNDP.

Over the coming months QUNO-NY will continue to work on issues related to the prevention of election-related violence as part of the Prevention program.

**QUNO-NY Staff Update**

In September 2010, we welcomed a new Quaker UN Representative, Camilla Campisi. She is now serving as the lead staff person for QUNO’s Peacebuilding program. Prior to QUNO, Camilla was an Advocate with Refugees International based in Washington, DC. Camilla has facilitated a series of discussions around peacebuilding at Quaker House for diplomats, UN staff, and NGOs. She has also had an opportunity to visit the programs of American Friends Service Committee in Burundi and Kenya.

Our Program Assistants—Miranda Hurst and Nadira Khudayberdieva—also began their work in September. Miranda is a British Quaker with a degree in Social Anthropology from the London School of Economics. After graduating in 2007, she spent a year in Jerusalem in a grass-roots organization that brings together Israeli and Palestinian school communities. Miranda then moved to Ramallah, where she worked for a policy think tank and as a field coordinator for an export company. Miranda attended the QUNO Geneva summer school, and is active among young adult Friends. At QUNO, Miranda is focusing on peacebuilding.

Nadira comes from an ethnic minority group in Uzbekistan and is a native Russian speaker. She spent two years in India, where she attended a United World College and completed an International Baccalaureate diploma. She later graduated from Earlham College (Richmond, IN) with a B.A. in International Studies. In 2009, as a summer fellow at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, she conducted research on issues pertaining to Nonproliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and International Security. At QUNO, Nadira is focusing on prevention of violent conflict. Both PAs will be at QUNO until summer 2011.

Sarah Clarke continues her work with QUNO as UN Representative and Associate Director, focusing on QUNO’s newly established Prevention program. The program is currently exploring work on themes such as prevention of election-related violence, as well as opportunities to reach out and engage with rising centers of power around conflict prevention strategies.

QUNO’s Director, Andrew Tomlinson, has been playing a leading role in ensuring a strong and dynamic linkage between the two core program areas and representing the office at a senior level at the UN and beyond. Apart from his directorial duties, Andrew has done extensive programmatic work on Israel-Palestine and Somalia, among other issues.

Cathy Thomas has been a part of QUNO since January 2002 performing many of the organization’s detailed financial and administrative tasks and maintaining the website. Cathy will be retiring in September 2011.

**More information on the work of both QUNO-Geneva and QUNO-NY – including newsletters and reports – and the ways in which you can support it, can be found at www.quno.org.**
Around the sections

Asia West-Pacific Section

AWPS Section Triennial Gathering

Friends from across our FWCC ‘section’ came together for a Triennial Gathering in Manila from April 1st to 7th 2011. FWCC divides the world into four sections. Three sections – Europe & the Middle East, Africa and the Americas are fairly clearly defined. Our section, the Asia West Pacific Section (AWPS) is really the rest of the world!

In practice, we are Friends from a rough triangle bounded by India, Japan and New Zealand. So we had Friends from Aotearoa/NZ, Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines and Singapore as well as guests from the United Kingdom and the United States.

The gathering was hosted by PEFIM (Philippines Evangelical Friends International Ministries) who worked hard to ensure that we were well welcomed and comfortable.

The venue for the gathering was ‘Bukal ng Taipan’ a Catholic Conference Centre perched high on a hill and surrounded by forest gardens and overlooking the vast spread of the city of Manila. The Minutes and Epistles are on the AWPS website.

The recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan were fresh in our minds and we also remembered the people of Christchurch, New Zealand and the 2009 floods in Manila as we worked through the FWCC questions regarding Global Change.

Each day followed a program of worship, business sessions, presentations and ‘home group’ discussions and sharing. We started at 6:30 with early Meeting for Worship and ended with an epilogue scheduled at 9:30pm. I always looked forward to the meal times, as much for the chance to interact informally with Friends from other places as for the food! We had a choice of sitting indoors or outside on a patio with an expansive view over Manila. Often a gentle breeze would somewhat temper the heat of the day.

The timetabled Worship and Epilogue sessions were led by Friends from different traditions so that on one day we might have programmed early Worship led by Friends from India and an epilogue led by unprogrammed Friends from Korea. Programmed Worship often involved singing, vocal prayers and a message or sermon (and not much quiet time) while the ‘Unprogrammed’ Worship sometimes had a programmed element such as a reading. The proceedings were conducted in English but songs were sung in many languages. Those Friends with little English were helped with some informal translation.

Janet Scott (UK) and Paul Anderson (USA) were special guests, invited to give keynote addresses, drawing on the Epistle of James, the brother of Jesus. We had a session with Theresa Quintos-Delos, Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process, and close friend of our Friend, Tina Montiel and an interfaith discussion with leaders of the Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist communities. We saw an award-winning documentary on how disenfranchised farmers marched 1700km to win back rights to their ancestral land. A day’s outing on the Tuesday was most welcome - a bus trip into the hills, historic tour of Manila or shopping.

AWPS Gatherings take place every 3 years so the next will be in 2014. If you can’t wait that long, the World Gathering of Friends will be held in Kenya in April 2012. (See http://www.saltandlight2012.org/ for details) I have recently had an email from Nancy Irving, FWCC General Secretary saying “please encourage others to ask themselves if they too are called to attend”.

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Section of the Americas

Quaker Youth Pilgrimage 2012

Applications are now being accepted from young Friends who wish to take part in the 2012 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. Applications are also now being taken for adult leader positions.

The pilgrimage will run July 12-August 13, 2012 and will take place in The United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Information and application forms can be found at http://fwccamericas.org/events/qyp.shtml Leader applications are due September 15, 2011; pilgrim applications must be in by October 1.

The Quaker Youth Pilgrimage has brought young Friends together for over 50 years to

- Develop one's relationship with God
- Gain understanding of Quaker process
- Explore Quaker history
- Experience different Friends' traditions and forms of worship
- Form a community and lasting friendships
- Participate in a service project

The most recent pilgrimage was held last summer in the Northwestern United States.

Salt & Light events coming this fall

Local Salt & Light events are now being planned for the second half of 2011. Locations have been confirmed in New England, the Midwest, Jamaica, Central America, Bolivia and other sites. While we await confirmation of other locations in the coming weeks, opportunities for your meeting to host an event are still possible.

Valerie Joy and Abel Sibonio, both from Australia YM, will visit multiple locations in the US this fall. Valerie is the Executive Secretary of FWCC's Asia-West Pacific Section. Abel is formerly from Burundi YM and spent time in a refugee camp in Tanzania before emigrating to Australia.

Linda Kusse-Wolfe and David Wolfe, Great Plains YM, will lead Jamaican Friends in a Salt & Light event in connection with their yearly meeting session in August. Linda and David led a deeply inspiring Salt & Light event in Philadelphia following the FWCC Annual Meeting in March.

Please contact the section office (details on page 15) if you are interested in hosting other speakers to engage groups of Friends on the theme Being Salt and Light: Friends living the kingdom of God in a broken world.

Latin American Quaker Peace Center proposed

From the annual session of Cuba Yearly Meeting, which took place in February, we received this news:

"As a result of the workshops on Quakerism that were conducted for us by the American Friends Service Committee, we felt the hand of God opening the way for us to deepen and project out our Quaker faith, and placing upon us a call to deeper service. This would put us in His hands as instruments of peace... As a result, it was proposed to create a Center for Peace and Latin American Quaker Studies, whose purpose would be the following: 'To create a Quaker training center that would help us to deepen and project our faith and our Quaker witness within our context, and at the same time be able to prepare leaders who can work towards the promotion of peace and the resolution of conflicts...’"

FWCC Section of the Americas looks forward to sharing news of this project as it develops.
Europe and Middle East Section

Joint Gathering

Europe and Middle East Section was very blessed to host the Central Executive Committee Meeting at its Joint Gathering with Young Friends in Herzberg over Easter in April. This was a gift for our representatives and other Friends will have the wonderful opportunity of attending the World Conference of Friends in Kenya next year, to prepare to encounter other members of the world family of Friends by extending our own hospitality in the lovely and tranquil surroundings of a Swiss hillside.

The gathering took as its theme “Bring and Share – a feast of Quaker fare”, and that describes pretty well the joyous sense of the very different styles of worship, theological insights, size of Meetings/churches, cultural influences and lifestyles that were explored. We asked ourselves: “How do we worship?”, “Where do we draw our inspiration from?”, “What resources help us to live faithful lives?” and “How do we bear witness to the Truth?” We explored the theme not only in worship, but in bible studies, in exploration of Jungian psychology, in practicing Tai Chi, in learning about Early Friends’ view of Unity in Creation.

We also had many opportunities of hearing testimonies of “Witness in Action” from Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva, Quaker Council for European Affairs, Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, working with the Christian Peacemakers Team, and life in Nepal. We also had a great deal of fun, were entertained to wonderful music and funny sketches, and expressed our own sense of the theme through group activities.

Please read the epistle from the gathering and see some photos on our website: http://www.fwccemes.org/news/herzberg-joint-gathering-2011-epistle

David Atwood of QUNO Geneva has left and the new director is Jonathan Woolley. QCEA is looking to replace the current Representatives, who retire in the Autumn of 2012.

Visits and Meetings

Two Friends from Tblisi Recognized Meeting in Georgia travelled to Britain in April. They went to Cambridge (where Jesus Lane Meeting has a “twinning” arrangement with Tblisi), and to other Meetings, including Bristol. They also attended a course at Woodbrooke.

Woodbrooke on the Road provided a three-day workshop on “What does our Life say?” to the Central European gathering of Friends which met in June at Litomysl in the Czech Republic. This was a lovely family occasion, with many Friends who are regular attenders, and new Friends from the Worship Group in Warsaw.

We sent representatives to a conference to consider the future of Experiment with Light, and also to the Church and Peace conference, which was held in May, over the same week-end as the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation in Kingston, Jamaica.

The Border Meeting of Friends from France, Switzerland and Germany took place in the Black Forest in March, and several Yearly Meetings held their sessions – Denmark in March, Ireland in April, Netherlands in May, Sweden, Switzerland and Norway in June.
Ministry and Outreach

Since February, the Companion programme has been launched through the latest issue of Among Friends. There is more work to be done to inform Friends within EMES of the programme and to incorporate it into the website. The Companion preparation and online forum will be offered through FWCC’s Moodle.

The Quakers in Europe on-line project continues to progress nicely. The second/third Czech run was a success, according to the facilitator. The third French course is over and a fourth one is in the works with Friends from Strasbourg and new facilitators to be prepared. The third run of the Finnish course began in early May, with a new facilitator to be trained and joining the Friend who has facilitated thus far. Friends are translating the course into Esperanto. The evaluation of the project will happen during the remainder of this year. It will be done in-house.

Plans for the Russian-speaking gathering continue. The latest update suggests that the gathering will happen in October of this year, and possible venues are the Ukraine or Belarus.

We are planning for another residential teaching weekend at Svartbäcken in late autumn. The focus will be preparation for Companions and others who would value exploring what it is to share the faith and practice of Friends.

Julia Ryberg spoke at Ireland YM in April and will give the Cary Lecture at German YM in October. In addition, Julia is involved in preparing online learning resources for the FWCC World Conference.

New worship groups have become established in Milan, Italy, and in Warsaw, Poland. A Friend in Vilnius, Lithuania, was accepted into International Membership.

Website and Publications

We have added members-only pages to the website for Representatives, participants in the Joint Gathering, the Executive Committee and Peace and Service Consultation. These pages are aligned to a Forum which enables greater ease of communication. The Global Change group continues to use a googlegroup for sharing views.

We now have a Facebook page which allows people to be alerted to new items of news or articles of interest as they are posted on the EMES website, and in other Quaker sites. It is proving quite popular!

Among Friends was published in the Autumn of 2010 and the Spring of 2011, both issues are available on the website. The next issue is due out in July 2011.

Finances

Presenting our annual report and accounts to the Annual Meeting, our treasurer Neithard Petry reminded us that the art of forecasting is a very difficult one, especially when it involves the future. However, we are thankful that we have managed to come in pretty much on budget in 2010, in spite of the fact that donations from member meetings have not increased at all for a number of years.

We are very aware of the financial constraints that many Friends and their meetings are struggling with, and are grateful for the continued support. We hope that this will be maintained in future, and, when resources allow, increased to meet the financial pressures that EMES itself faces.
Global Change Consultation

FWCC’s Global Change Consultation is gaining momentum in the run-up to the Sixth World Conference. Friends all over the world have been meeting in cluster groups to consider six queries on the subject of Global Change and whether Friends have something unique to say.

There is still time for you to organise a cluster group. This is very much a local initiative, and we are hoping that Friends will address these queries from their own distinct perspective. We are keen to hear from the broadest possible spectrum. While the Consultation is not driven by the World or Section Offices, the World Office is co-ordinating the responses, and has material available for those who wish to organise their own cluster group. These can be found at www.fwccglobalchange.org, or you can contact the World Office (details on page 15) for more information.

A cluster group is a chance for concerned Friends to discuss, consider and worshipfully discern their views of global change and their vision of Friends' voice and message to the rest of Friends and to the wider world. The outcomes of these meetings are to be recorded and sent to FWCC where they form part of the Cluster Deepening process and the Consultation process.

To give focus to Clusters’ discussions and discernment we provide background materials and a set of six Queries. We are distributing the Queries to all Friends worldwide. They form the backbone of the Consultation process. It is hoped that each Cluster will work through all the Queries and send us their responses to them. Getting your Cluster’s response to the six Queries is a very important part of the discernment process for Friends worldwide.

The structure of Cluster meetings is that each Cluster has its own Clerk, Facilitator or Convener who convenes the gathering and ensures it stays focused. The Clerk or Facilitator may also keep written records or Minutes of the Meeting. Alternatively, there may be a separate Recording Clerk or Recorder to keep written records. We hope that you will also have a Recorder who will make an audio-visual record of the Cluster’s proceedings. Unanimity within a Cluster is not essential. What is needed is a record of experiences and views. Where Minutes are recorded, it is expected that all attending the Cluster agree to them. If there is not agreement, we trust that the record reflects the variety of views.

Cluster group responses are being posted on the website. Here are some examples of the responses so far:

**Aotearoa/New Zealand YM Minute**

We recognise we are confronted by complex systems. These require spiritual waiting, prayerful waiting then leadings will come. Greed, despair and pessimism are dangers. The challenge is to overcome these in ourselves and our communities. Cautious, constructive optimism is possible. Focussing on our abundance of love, compassion, healing, thanksgiving for what we have, grace will help overcome greed, despair and pessimism. We appreciate that human lives have been liberated by technology. If we let go of something for a period, this may give us an opportunity to learn new values or for possibilities to emerge. One of our challenges is to make our lives as a Friends meeting a community which will be so inviting that others will want to join us in our search to walk lightly on this earth and maintain a loving community. From that community we can work to change the thinking of our government, relooking at ways to live in harmony with each other and the earth.

**Netherlands YM**

These challenges have indeed deepened the spiritual life of Netherlands YM. We feel inspired to continue challenging one another to develop lifestyles and attitudes in keeping with our Testimonies. As a corporate body we also lent our support to important activities developed by environmental and nature protection organisations. At the same time we continue as vigorously as possible our peace and service work.
Fredricton, NB, Canada

As Quakers, I think we have to drop our old resistance to letting others know about our techniques and processes, and we have to become a lot more one-pointed and focussed as a group. Also, on a personal level, I have started talking a lot more in my community about what Quakers do and how. I am doing a few small weird things like taking my reuseable mug to bridge on Monday night, and saying why. I actually think we should look much more assertively at ways of using the funds we have been left to do much more publicly. This is very hard to address. We are all so powerfully individual. I would like to know how others would like to be supported! For myself, I would like to be encouraged to speak out.

First Denver Friends Church, USA

[We] need to give up our ways of doing things, it's not “green” to build better ways of doing things if we need to use methods of production that use more energy and raw materials, etc. to get us there. We need to learn to talk to each other, listen to each other in ways that will help us convince us all that there are ways we can work together and help us see that there are simpler ways to get things done and we can learn them and have a good, even better life than if we cling to the things that won't work. Some former disadvantaged countries are doing these things well and becoming strong in good ways.

North Pacific MM, USA

The term “right relationship” resonates with me. It helps me move beyond guilt, fear and hopelessness. We are capable of right relationship. I have learned much from a book by this title based on the writings of Kenneth Boulding and others. I am now a “climate master” and train others to go into the community and help lower the carbon footprint on a one-on-one basis.

Young Friends General Meeting, Britain YM

We have considered whether the transforming power of love and hope is best expressed simply by having an attitude of love and hope. Early friends had a powerful approach towards their faith, “Walking cheerfully over the face of the earth”. We can often take God and our faith too seriously therefore loosing the ‘cheer’ of the Good News. Perhaps some of us do not know many people who are naturally cheerful with a joy for life and the abundance of God’s creation, but people are naturally drawn towards these people and the support they offer will naturally breed a transforming power of love and hope. We simply need to walk cheerfully over the face of the earth answering that of God in everyone.

Wandsworth Quaker Meeting, Britain YM

We need to reflect on our Quaker history of compassionate action, consider deeply what actions flow from our beliefs in human equality and that of God in everyone, and send out a clear message to the outside world. We should be aware of personal resistance to change and guard against being judgmental, while taking opportunities to speak truth to each other and to power. The green message is not one of ‘hairshirtedness’ but of love for Mother Earth. Our greatest gift from God is the environment which sustains us, and we need to treat it with respect, to evolve a right relationship with the living Earth. This mirrors our need for social relationships. We need to move beyond individual consumerist lifestyles, become less lonely and isolated, and more able to contribute to the lives of others. Our actions matter to others, not just ourselves and need to grow out of and support relationships and community. We need to re-work the way we act as people, embracing relationships with and for the planet, for our communities and for society. On the specific issue of population growth, we should support access to birth control and choice, and education and greater income for women in the developing world. Personally we should consider how we can reduce our environmental impacts through changing the way we eat, travel, and heat and furnish our homes. As members of Wandsworth Meeting we should make it far more energy efficient. Britain Yearly Meeting needed to communicate to decision makers a clear values-based message of justice, compassion, peace and simplicity.
About the Friends World Committee for Consultation

The purpose of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. The Quaker community circles the globe, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship. FWCC programs unite Friends around the world through Spirit-led fellowship.

Our association with the Quaker United Nations Offices offers a means to monitor and present Quaker contributions to world affairs. Our consultation extends to those of other faiths through work with the World Council of Churches.

Our Mission
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. (Approved 2006)

History
In 1937, after years of concerned work to reconnect a fragmented Quaker world, the Second World Conference of Friends created the FWCC “to act in a consultative capacity to promote better understanding among Friends the world over.” Today, Friends from yearly meetings and groups in 75 nations continue this work. Around the world there are four cooperating, autonomous FWCC Sections serving Africa, the Americas, Asia & the West Pacific, and Europe & the Middle East. FWCC's World Office is in London.

Since 1948, FWCC has had “consultative” status with the United Nations and is responsible for the two Quaker UN Offices in Geneva and New York.

FWCC World Office
The world office is based at Friends House in London, England. It serves four main roles:

- Organise world gatherings, including triennial meetings and consultations of Quakers world-wide.
- Support and maintain contact with the work of the four FWCC sections and the Quaker United Nations Offices.
- Coordinate the International Membership programme, which joins isolated Friends and worship groups to the wider Quaker community.
- Promote an understanding of the world-wide character of the Society of Friends, through conferences, staff travel, correspondence and publications, and through ecumenical and interfaith work on behalf of Friends.

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


(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.

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**SECTION OF THE AMERICAS**

1506 Race Street
Philadelphia, PA, 19102, USA
E-mail: americas@fwccamericas.org
Phone: +1 215 241 7250
Fax: +1 215 241 7285
Executive Secretary (acting):
Louise Salinas
www.fwccamericas.org

**AFRICA SECTION**

PO Box 41946
Nairobi, Kenya
E-mail fwccas@gmail.com
Phones: +254 2 570 077
+254 2 567 601
Executive Secretary:
Moses Musonga
www.fwccafrica.org

**EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST SECTION**

P.O. Box 1157
Histon
Cambridge CB24 9XQ
UK
E-mail: emes@fwcc.quaker.org
Phone: +44 1223 479585
Executive Secretary: Marisa Johnson
www.fwccemes.org

**WORLD OFFICE**

173 Euston Road
London NW1 2AX, UK
General Secretary: Nancy Irving
E-mail: world@fwcc.quaker.org
www.fwccworld.org

From OUTSIDE the United Kingdom call
Phone: + 44 207 663 1199
Fax: + 44 207 663 1189

From INSIDE the United Kingdom
Phone: 020 7663 1199
Fax: 020 7663 1189

**UK. Charity 211647**

**ASIA-WEST PACIFIC SECTION**

17 Bourelet St
Tarragindi Qld 4121
Australia
E-mail: awps@fwcc.quaker.org
Phone +61 7 3342 4887
Executive Secretary: Valerie Joy
www.fwccawps.org
Japan earthquake and Friends

Japanese Friends are having difficulty in deciding where to start in their huge task of recovering from the Earthquake, Tsunami and now increasing radiation levels. They too have suffered effects themselves. Tokyo Friends Center and the meetinghouse in Mito are two buildings that have been damaged by the earthquake in Japan. While Japanese Friends are reported safe, and their meetings are some distance from the epicenter of the quake, there are ongoing anxieties about radiation from the damaged nuclear power stations.

Yukiko Backes, of Japan Yearly Meeting, writes:

I am busy to organize the opinions and ideas of relief work by Friends here. First, some want to repair the Mito meetinghouse which connects to the kindergarten, so that their kindergarten can open at the beginning of April. They luckily found a temporary place in Mito for now. Tokyo Friends Center also needs repair to put back the chimney and the broken wall and windows.

Now those who are staying at the shelters need some solid and permanent living quarters. Most of the local governments are spreading their hands to accept them. For example, the Osaka governor has welcomed at least 1800 families in the public apartments, as have others. Osaka apartments are free for one year.

Wherever you go, there is a box for donations. Everyone here is helping and supporting the victims in his or her own way. The main roads to the tsunami area are getting better so that all the relief goods can be delivered, which is happy news.

Mamoru Hitomi, of Mito, wrote of his experience on returning from a trip to Mt Fuji on the day of the earthquake:

I was suddenly back to awful reality in the train from a few day personal trip to see Mt. Fuji. The train suddenly stopped between the stations and the car started rolling and the electricity poles began to move left and right. Aftershock earthquakes attacked us one after another, but none of the passengers were injured.

He added in a later email:

The earthquake of Magnitude 9.0 damaged our Meeting House which was a hundred years old. As it had been used as a kindergarten on weekdays, we had to find a new site quickly. Fortunately we found a good place nearby and moved there on April 1. Planning of construction of our new meeting house started after that, and at last our ruined Meeting House will soon be demolished putting aside bricks useable for the new building. It is professional work under the direction of professional architect. We expect to build it much stronger.

Donations to the relief fund in Sterling or US$ may be sent to the FWCC World Office (see page 15 for the address) or visit [www.fwccawps.org/news/2011_Japan_Appeal.php](http://www.fwccawps.org/news/2011_Japan_Appeal.php) for other ways to donate.