Friends World News

The Bulletin of the Friends World Committee for Consultation

6th World Conference special issue

Friends World Committee for Consultation
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
From the World Office

We have been blessed! So many people, volunteers and staff, contributed to the crescendo of activities leading up to the 6th World Conference. I was deeply touched by the willingness of so many to pitch in, often un-acknowledged, to bring together 850 Friends at Kabarak University in Kenya. Just four people plus staff did all the ‘meeting and greeting’ at the airport in Nairobi – Florence Irungu, Moses Adika, Ken Avombe and Ruth Inyanji were there late at night and before dawn in the morning for many days. Their work was just the tail-end of all the hundreds of travel arrangements and re-arrangements made by volunteer Christina Birch from her home in Northwest England. With staff Cornelius Ambiah and Marleen Schepers, they made it possible for us to physically arrive for the conference. I could go on and on yet I fear I would miss some names because there are so many people whose contributions I am grateful for.

Now that the World Conference is part of our history together, we look ahead. Many threads emerged at Kabarak. The Global Change Consultation Process concluded its three-year work with the Kabarak Call for Peace and EcoJustice which we hope will be carried forward locally and regionally and through our UN work. We heard several prophetic voices from young Friends who brought messages in our morning worship sessions and the keynote address. Their messages can be read on our website: www.saltandlight2012.org. We named new leaders for FWCC who will begin their work in January González Longoria of Cuba, (Presiding) Clerk, Simon Lamb of Ireland Assistant Clerk, and Betsy Cazden of New England Clerk of the Central Executive Committee. I look forward to welcoming Gretchen Castle of Philadelphia Yearly meeting as my successor. Her parents and grandparents were Quaker pastors in Iowa and Indiana. Her skills in organisational development will be especially useful as FWCC is committed to finding new ways to do its work sustainably.

Even with the commitment to working in new ways, the Central Executive Committee re-affirmed the value of producing this publication twice a year; nonetheless it will be supplemented with more electronic and web-based communications. That said, if you are willing to receive this electronically, please send an email with that message to database@friendsworldoffice.org. Many thanks.

You continue to support the FWCC World Office and our Sections in so many ways, we are grateful for all your prayers and contributions.

With faith and hope,

General Secretary
FWCC World Office

Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>From the World Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>World Conference 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>World Conference Epistle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kabarak Call for Peace and EcoJustice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The World Conference – a reflection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>The World Conference in pictures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Weaving the Threads – a Minute of Exercise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The future of FWCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>About FWCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Publications order form/contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Calling veterans of the FAU and FRS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cover: The group photo taken at the 6th World Conference of Friends, held from 17-25 April 2012 at Kabarak University, near Nakuru, Kenya.

Photo by Philip Wood
Friends World News 2012/1

World Conference 2012

The largest worldwide conference of Friends since 1967 came together from 17-25 April 2012 in Kenya. The theme was Being Salt and Light – Friends living the Kingdom of God in a broken world. Over 850 Friends gathered on the campus of Kabarak University, near Nakuru, Kenya. They came from many parts of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and North America.

This special edition of Friends World News brings you reports, minutes and photos from the event. There will also be a Conference Report which will be issued later this year.

As well, there is a documentary film of the event being professionally produced by Friends from Pacific Yearly Meeting in the western United States. It should be available in the autumn, and while it will be distributed free of charge as a gift of Pacific YM to the wider family of Friends, the producers are looking for support to defray the production costs. If you are able to contribute even a small amount, you can do so at the Conference website with a debit or credit card (www.saltandlight2012.org/FollowTheConference) or by sending a cheque in US$ or pounds sterling made payable to FWCC and marked “For documentary” to the World office address on page 15.

On the World Conference website you will find a wealth of information, including the texts of various talks and addresses, minutes, photos and links to blogs where participants relate their experiences. We expect to add to the site regularly as more Friends relate their experiences in Kenya, and the site will remain in place as a resource well into the future.

Finally, there are likely to be members of your meeting or church who are bursting to tell you all about their experiences at the World Conference. Please consider inviting these Friends to speak at one of your events.
To Friends everywhere,

We greet you amid the beauty of the Rift Valley, surrounded by the welcoming embrace of Kenyan Friends. From April 17 to 25, 2012 close to 850 men and women from all the streams of Friends, coming from 112 yearly meetings and groups in 51 countries have gathered at Kabarak University near Nakuru to consider the theme "Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World."

The colours, songs, movements, rich diversity and joyful spirit of Friends here gathered have inspired and uplifted us all. We have heard Friends from around the world, including several young, prophetic voices, speak on the theme. They gave a wide variety of interpretations of salt and light in a biblical context and also in how we can apply its meaning to life in our world today.

The call that brought us together was to be salt and light as we live out the Kingdom of God. We received this call with a real sense of urgency in these times of natural disasters, violence, global change, and unequal access to basic needs. We have been reminded that we are sometimes too preoccupied with being heavenly to be useful on Earth. We see this as a challenge to not detach ourselves from the wider society in hope that this will bring us closer to God. Rather, we need to be present and engaged in our communities, while remaining attentive to the Still, Small Voice, in order to allow the Spirit to work through us.

‘The Religious Society of Friends--the Friends Church-- is about nothing if it is not about transformation’ in the words of one of our speakers. As Friends we feel called to try to return to the conviction and simple faith of our Quaker ancestors and their transformed lives, so that we may once again become a prophetic people, speaking to God’s purposes in these times.

We first have to look inward, both as individuals and as a religious society. Can we end our internal strife? Can we reach out in love to one another as Jesus commanded? We may not understand liberal/evangelical/programmed/unprogrammed Friends but we are all Friends. The diversity of Friends at this conference has provided us with an opportunity to live out our testimonies to equality and truth. Our ability to do so has been put to the test. We found ourselves reluctant to go beyond polite acceptance and avoidance of difference. We are not united in all of our attitudes and beliefs, yet we choose to come together to listen, to share, and to hear things we may find uncomfortable and upsetting. As we choose to seek connection in the midst of our differences, we witness the power of God to bless and heal. We may not always understand each other fully, but we are united in our yearning for transformation. We are united in God.

We live in a broken world. We were moved to realise that so many of us here carry a sense of grief, loss, failure or hurt. We were forced to recognise the brokenness in us and in our Religious Society. A speaker challenged us to consider that brokenness may also be opportunity. We are uncomfortable with feeling brokenness and seeing it around us, yet from it we gain strength, empathy and compassion. Rather than trying to heal our brokenness as quickly as possible, we challenge ourselves - and Friends everywhere - to consider what God’s plan could be for a hurting individual, and for a hurting community.

We know that the Kingdom is come and coming. We pray that we may experience the Kingdom of God within ourselves here and now, so that we may live it more fully in transforming this world. In this we anticipate the everlasting Kingdom, in which the world will be made whole.

Here in Kenya, we remember the post-election violence that shook this nation in 2008, and the courageous stance taken by our brothers and sisters. We invite all Friends to join us in prayer for Kenyan Friends who are working even now for the prevention of conflict, and for their whole nation as their elections approach. We pray also for all people facing conflict and violence in the world.

Early on in our time together, we were asked the same question that God asked Elijah on Sinai: "What are you doing..."
here?" In the latter half of the conference we have considered many queries that have come out of our work together in small groups. Each of these queries asks, in one way or another, "What will you do after you leave here?" We bear these queries with us, as they are for all Friends to discern how God is leading.

The inward voice of Christ Jesus is what will answer these questions for us. May we be faithful in listening to that voice once we have returned from this gathering. As Christ leads all of us, we can become the salt of the Earth and the light of our broken world.

The Kabarak Call for Peace and EcoJustice

In past times God's Creation restored itself. Now humanity dominates, our growing population consuming more resources than nature can replace. We must change, we must become careful stewards of all life. Earthcare unites traditional Quaker testimonies: peace, equality, simplicity, love, integrity, and justice. Jesus said, "As you have done unto the least... you have done unto me". We are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole earth, in right sharing with all peoples. However few our numbers, we are called to be the salt that flavours and preserves, to be a light in the darkness of greed and destruction.

We have heard of the disappearing snows of Kilimanjaro and glaciers of Bolivia, from which come life-giving waters. We have heard appeals from peoples of the Arctic, Asia and Pacific. We have heard of forests cut down, seasons disrupted, wildlife dying, of land hunger in Africa, of new diseases, droughts, floods, fires, famine and desperate migrations - this climatic chaos is now worsening. There are wars and rumors of war, job loss, inequality and violence. We fear our neighbors. We waste our children's heritage.

All of these are driven by our dominant economic systems - by greed not need, by worship of the market, by Mammon and Caesar.

Is this how Jesus showed us to live?

- We are called to see what love can do: to love our neighbor as ourselves, to aid the widow and orphan, to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, to appeal to consciences and bind the wounds.

- We are called to teach our children right relationship, to live in harmony with each other and all living beings in the earth, waters and sky of our Creator, who asks, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the world?" (Job 38:4)

- We are called to do justice to all and walk humbly with our God, to cooperate lovingly with all who share our hopes for the future of the earth.

- We are called to be patterns and examples in a 21st century campaign for peace and eco-justice, as difficult and decisive as the 18th and 19th century drive to abolish slavery.

We dedicate ourselves to let the living waters flow through us - where we live, regionally, and in wider world fellowship. We dedicate ourselves to building the peace that passeth all understanding, to the repair of the world, opening our lives to the Light to guide us in each small step.

The World Conference – a reflection

Salt. Light. The Kingdom of God. Simple words perhaps, but ones which resonated with varied meaning for the Friends attending the Sixth World Conference from around the globe.

World Conferences are rare and precious opportunities for a larger number of Friends from different Quaker traditions to meet face-to-face and worship together, listen to each other and share what it means to live in the world as a Friend of the Truth (John 15:14). As with all Quaker events, the spiritual underpinned this World Conference, the largest single gathering of Friends from around the world since 1967. In developing the theme, the International Planning Committee (IPC) sought to emphasise the divine, looking for language and concepts that would inspire, illuminate and challenge. Worship underpinned our time together. Each day there were opportunities for stillness, prayer, singing and experiencing the diversity of Friends' worship. Participants were assigned a home group – small groups which met daily with more time for discussion, worship sharing and to get to know other Friends on a deep level.

We met conscious of the fact that we live in a broken world. How then should Friends in this generation address the reality of climate change, economic crisis and moral uncertainty? What, then, can we say? And how, given our diverse theological and spiritual approaches, can we come together as a people of God called forth to witness?

The Bible and various Quaker texts were examined prayerfully, and several passages seemed to resonate. Time and again the IPC was drawn to Matthew, especially 5:13-16. "You are the salt of the Earth.... You are the light of the world." Are Friends today really salt? And are we living up to the Light that has been given us? Do our good deeds glorify our Father in Heaven, or do we too often fall short? Surely questions for all Friends to wrestle with if we hope to have any part in mending a broken world.

The IPC was also drawn to Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness..." For some Friends, the idea of Kingdom is challenging. The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13, which the IPC also considered) is not often heard in Friends Meetings, certainly not of the unprogrammed variety. And yet it contains the keys to building the earthly Kingdom of God (or whatever words you are comfortable using to describe the concept) - enough for all, forgiveness, resistance to temptation that might lead us into unsustainable habits, and deliverance from evil, all through the power of the Spirit.

Micah and Luke also figured prominently in the spiritual underpinning of the World Conference, again offering solutions, hints as to how we might change our ways to be beacons of hope. In particular, Luke 17:20-21 will resonate with Friends - "Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, 'The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst.' (Or, "within you.") This is the realised eschatology that underpins much of Quaker theology - the Kingdom of God has come and is coming.

Turning to Quaker texts, the IPC was struck by the words of the eighteenth-century American Friend John Woolman (1763): "Here we have the prospect of one common interest from which our own is inseparable, that to turn all the treasures we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives..."

The meetings to decide the theme were gathered and deep. Friends recognised that this was, first and foremost, a spiritual event, and the theme needed to speak to Friends across the different traditions of world Quakerism, and across linguistic and cultural barriers. Much prayerful discernment led to the emergence of the World Conference theme:

Being Salt and Light – Friends living the Kingdom of God in a broken world
The IPC recognised that different Friends would find different parts of the theme challenging. The idea was not to have a theme that tried to be all things to all Friends, but rather one that was varied and nuanced, that could be focused on in parts. This gave participants the opportunity to remain in relatively comfortable territory (which would vary depending on their theological outlook), and still benefit from exploring these issues with like-minded people, or to really challenge themselves and explore avenues well outside their comfort zones.

One of the outcomes of this was the discernment that the theme could be explored in "threads". Five were identified:

- Salt and Light
- Kingdom of God
- Broken World
- Quaker Roots and History
- Friends' Diversity/Interfaith

Workshops at the conference could then focus on these threads, with "thread groups" offering the opportunity to look in-depth at specific aspects of each thread over three days. These groups included, among several others: Being Salt and Light in the 21st Century; Sharing our gifts: Quaker women past and present; George Fox, the Second Paul; A Journey Through Life with Christ; Friends Peacemaking Around the World; Beyond "us" and "them"; and Socially Responsible Banking: a Friend's perspective.

But that was not the end of the process. Plenary sessions on the final three days were devoted to "weaving the threads", a chance for Friends to put any conclusions emanating from the thread groups to the larger body of Friends for discernment. This led to a Minute of Exercise (see page 10) and the Kabarak Call for Peace and EcoJustice.

Of course, Friends are enjoined to come to gatherings with heart and mind prepared. To help with this, and also for the benefit of people who were not attending but who wish to engage with the theme, a study booklet was created, containing reflections written by Friends from around the world, and from a large variety of theological traditions. This booklet was organised under the same sub-headings as the thread groups. A series of on-line study circles (which are ongoing), in a variety of languages, took place, uniting Friends from all over the world in prayerful consideration of the theme. This provided a way of preparing for this encounter, and of participating, even without travelling to Kenya for the conference itself. As we learn about each other's experience of God, the divine, the ultimate reality, our task is not to judge, but rather to be open to truth as seen from the perspective of others, whose understanding of our Quaker tradition may be radically different.

There were many worship opportunities and chances to experience the variety of Friends' worship practices. For example, each morning's plenary session included both worship and a speaker. These were under the care of different FWCC Sections, each plenary a reflection of the unique gifts that each Section brings to the world of Friends. These sessions, too, provided spiritual food for thought, with the speakers bringing their personal experiences of living in a broken world to the gathering.

As every corner of the globe faces economic, political and environmental turmoil, we asked ourselves at this Sixth World Conference of Friends how our small and diverse community can live its faith so that God's love and purpose for the Earth - the Good News - can be made known to the whole world. The Conference Report, to be released later this year, will contain the fruits of that discernment, with concrete ways in which Friends everywhere can truly be salt and light and so help to mend this broken world.

*(All Bible quotes are from the New International Version, ©2010)*
The World Conference in pictures

Photos by Philip Wood
Weaving the Threads – a Minute of Exercise

During this Conference Friends have met in forty-two “thread groups” (or “spinning groups”) to consider various aspects of the theme, "Being Salt and Light: Friends living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World". Descriptions and reports from these thread groups will appear in the Conference Report. A "weaving committee" then took the strands that emerged from the Thread Group experience and reports and formulated some queries for consideration at three "weaving" plenary sessions. The queries, slightly edited, are also reproduced elsewhere in this report. We did not reach conclusions, but record a summary of the contributions during the plenaries.

Spiritual framework: Our work in the world rises from God's calling. God speaks one Truth, but gives many instructions. God gives each one of us our particular tasks. We need to discern and test what God's call is for each of us, today, knowing that as we are changed more into God's likeness, more may be required of us.

Responses to violence and peace with justice: In many Thread Groups, and in many of the pre-conference activities, Friends have considered how we are called to respond to violence in our many societies, and to work for a just peace. Friends have lifted up transformative work such as the Alternatives to Violence Program, "Healing and Rebuilding our Communities" workshops, the Quaker United Nations Offices, and projects promoting peace through the World Council of Churches and other ecumenical bodies.

Violence happens at many levels, from violence within homes and families to wars between nations. Friends in many countries are grieved by lynching and other forms of vigilante violence against criminals or those perceived of as unacceptable. All the levels are interconnected. Unless we model as Friends how to walk in peace, we have nothing to teach the world. We are called, as George Fox said, to live in the virtue of that Life and Power that takes away the occasion of all wars.

In order to achieve nonviolence, each of us needs to be transformed in our character and in our behavior. When we get cross or brusque with someone, or fail to ask forgiveness one of another, we are planting the seeds of violence. We need to model alternative methods for responding to injustice and violence so that we can work against injustice without using violence. We heard an account of a former criminal who said that all the reform programs that he had been assigned to did not do him any good or transform his life, and that "the only thing who has ever changed any member of our gang is the love of Jesus."

Violence arises from injustice. All types of inequality, such as divisions of race or ethnicity, privilege, and social class, tend to lead to violence. Violence begins when we begin to define someone or some group as evil, as "them" or "the other", when in reality they are persons just like ourselves struggling to live in the world. Our meetings and churches and Quaker institutions need to truly witness to equality.

Violence can take place in our thoughts and words as well as our actions. Silence can also be a kind of violence, if a person or group uses power to prevent others from expressing their ideas.

Economic justice: Our global economy includes both cooperation among peoples and exploitation of the people or natural resources of one region by entities elsewhere. Our Quaker organizations and contacts may enable Friends to share information about these systems of exploitation, to help us work more effectively in our local context and jointly.

Those among us with greater financial resources need to heed Jesus’ call not to lay up treasure on earth and to be willing to give all we have to meet the needs of others, not just to give out of our surplus.
Faith in Action: We are grateful for the many diverse ways that Friends groups around the world are putting their faith into concrete action to heal the broken world. We rejoice in seeing an underlying consistency in how Friends approach issues and in the things we choose to do.

As a prophetic people, we have a message to deliver about the need for fundamental changes in the ways we live our lives, to achieve an economy and environment closer to what God intends. We must be willing to speak the truth, to speak the word of God. When we compromise our testimony to the Truth for the sake of popularity or convenience, we lose our "saltiness."

We yearn for a radical and challenging transformation that forms the basis for our hope for the future. We wonder if there could be one or two projects in which all Friends around the world could unite, each in our own context. What is our common project and how are we known as Friends?

The work of loving our neighbors, building peace, or creating something with our own hands can involve risks and require courage, but should also lead to great joy.

Environment: Several Thread Groups considered environmental aspects of God's kingdom, and the need for justice and healing in the physical world. The whole of creation yearns for regeneration and wholeness (Rom. 8:22.). Many Friends are working in their communities to sow the seeds of environmental restoration. For example, a new type of inexpensive water filter, easy to produce locally, can supply essential clean water, saving thousands of lives. Following the 2011 earthquake/tsunami in Japan, Friends have worked with others to close nuclear power plants, and "green" the economy to use less electricity. In areas suffering from deforestation, planting trees restores ecological balance.

Addressing environmental issues also requires attention to economic fairness and power structures, and a willingness to confront those who oppose changes to the global economic system. Military activities are a major contributor to pollution and energy consumption, and environmental problems in turn cause conflicts that can turn violent.

Healing: Friends yearn for healing of divisions and conflicts among us, especially on the subjects of racism, human sexuality, gender equality, and other hidden unspoken inequalities.

Many Friends have participated in programs of truth and reconciliation within their countries, and with prison and criminal justice models that promote reconciliation and restoration of the offender to the community rather than just punishment and exclusion.

Healing and peace require that we acknowledge our sinfulness, the places where we are broken and have treated our neighbor badly. Otherwise we are lying to ourselves. When we ask for forgiveness, we will receive it. God loves us all. But love does not mean continuing in the same sinful ways. Like Jesus said to the adulteress (John 8:11), we have to "Go and sin no more."

When we recognize and name our own brokenness, we may be able to offer that brokenness to others in God's service, to contribute to the healing of others.

Interfaith work: In many contexts, we have found that effective work to heal a broken world is easier if we work with other Christians or those of diverse faiths.

We have come into the Quaker community by many different doorways. As we move deeper into that community, and encounter Friends very different from ourselves, we need to acknowledge our difference, and then say, as Jacob did to the angel, "I'm not going to let you go until you bless me."
The future of FWCC

The following minute is from Thread Group meeting together at this World Conference to consider the future of FWCC. It was approved by the International Representatives Meeting.

The future of FWCC thread group has met three times during this conference and considered what we might like the work of the World Office to look like in 5-10 years. 30-40 Friends have been present representing all four FWCC sections. We have been reminded of the current work of the FWCC World Office. A number of different scenarios were introduced to the Thread Group and were considered in the sessions.

In today's business session we present a summary of our discussions until now; we have worked in a worship sharing format. Key points that came out in our worship sharing were:

- God will sustain us and we can look to our future with confidence.
- The work of the world office needs to be sustainable both financially and environmentally, and necessary to be done at the World Office level rather than at the Yearly Meeting - or other - level.
The work should be visible, engaging, well communicated and unifying.

Some lack of enthusiasm is felt for the report – it is unrealistic to do more than we do at present, in the near term.

At present our expenditure exceeds our income so we have to either spend less, raise more money or do both. It is clear that the World Office will need to do both over the next few years. In order to do this, the World Office needs a clear set of priorities of what work will be done over the next 10-15 years.

The work of the World Office is ministry. If it is doing the right ministry, then resources will be forthcoming. The calling of the World Office needs to be tested over the coming years to know that it is doing the right work.

The new general secretary of FWCC has previously reviewed and restructured the work of organisations and will be well placed to carry out the work.

We were reminded that being a sign of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth is a purpose of FWCC which we have experienced this at this World Conference.

Friends have survived over three centuries, we have been persecuted, isolated and had to overcome bigger trials than this one. God tests us for which we are grateful.

Friends in some countries contributed to a travel fund to allow Friends from other countries to attend this World Conference. For this there is a tremendous sense of gratitude. This is God's work and has allowed us to meet here this week.

If we wait on God's will, we will have what we need at the right time. We may have to wait a long time for this.

We move forward in unity and always keep seeking.

We need to remember that as Friends we have a profound message.

We felt a collective sense of joy and appreciation for the gifts we receive from FWCC.

We agree on the following areas which should be considered as priorities for review by the World Office during the next 5 years:

1. Size and location of the World Office
2. Number and nature of gatherings
3. Communication
4. Ways of working
5. Fundraising
6. Project basis of work

More details of these are available in the supporting documents, which are available on request.

We received the report with gratitude. A Friend has asked if the CEC can consider reviewing the statement of the role and purpose of FWCC and strengthening it in terms of our influence on the outside world though our work. Another Friend hoped that Young Adult Friends could be included in the priorities. Elizabeth Duke, former General Secretary, reminded us that the work of FWCC is for all of us to do, that without us FWCC does not exist.
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.

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

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U.K. Charity 211647
Calling veterans of the FAU & FRS

The Quaker Service Memorial Trust was set up last year, with the support of the Meeting for Sufferings of Britain Yearly Meeting. It is currently engaged in constructing a memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, UK, in memory of the service of members of the Friends Ambulance Unit and Friends Relief Service during World War II. The memorial will also commemorate the joint award of the Nobel Peace Prize to FSC and AFSC, and include some basic information about Quakers.

As far as the Trust is aware, the memorial is unique in the Quaker world (but if anyone knows of anything similar, in the Americas or elsewhere, they would be delighted to hear of it).

The memorial is tentatively scheduled for inauguration on 15 September 2012.

A very important part of the Trust's work is to tell the ongoing story of Quaker involvement with communities around the world affected by conflict. During the first two weeks of June there was an exhibition at the National Memorial Arboretum telling the story from pre-20th century Quaker work in this area of concern, through to the creation of FAU in World War I and its revival in World War II, and on to the present time.

The Trust hopes to pursue this wider story at a later date, but their present priority is to locate as many former members as possible of the FAU and FRS, including those from North America. As many have now died or are very elderly, the Trust is making every effort to contact surviving members, and families of members, to find and document experiences, copy photographs and memorabilia/letters, and generally to record this important part of our Quaker history.

If you can help in any way, please contact:

The Quaker Service Memorial Trust
10 Beacon Mews, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 7AH UK
telephone: +44 (0)1543 258016, email: qsmtrust@hotmail.co.uk

Visit the Staffordshire Area Meeting website: www.staffs-quakers.org.uk