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**Friends from many places gathering at the Pastoral Centre,
Bhopal 6-12 November 2008**

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Editorial:

Our Christian and Quaker heritage is exemplified in the words of the disciple John in John 4: 41 *“We believe now... because we ourselves have heard him, and we know that he really is the saviour of the world”*. Our founder George Fox’s early ministry that *“there is One, even Christ Jesus, that can speak to thy condition, and when I heard it, my heart did leap for joy”*.

The lasting legacy of the AWPS Gathering just held in Bhopal, will continue in the hearts of all 160 Friends, young and old, from diverse cultures and in traditions of worship for years to come. Much more material is being held for the March 2009 Newsletter. Stories, talks and photos are being posted on our website, which highlight the flavour of these events. In fact four events took place. In addition to the Section Gathering, was a Young Friends Event, a Junior Young Friends event and the Central Executive Committee meeting, of the FWCC World Committee. Our General Secretary Nancy Irving said “by combining the CEC with Section Gatherings, it means that there are 14 extra pairs of eyes to see and understand what are the constraints and opportunities in the sections.”

The AWPS minute 2008/22 on Global Change was discussed at CEC level and a Strategic Planning group will be set up to work out a specifically Quaker response to looming crises in our environment, cultures and populations. We feel that any response must come from a place of love, not fear or anxiety.

The Young Friends, our future, gave energy and vision to all aspects of these events. Now that appointments for a Young Adult Friends Committee are being made, please pray for and support the AWPS representatives, who are: Emily Chapman-Searle from Australia, John Ocol from the Philippines and a third Young Friend from India.

Valerie Joy Secretary AWPS

Epistle of the FWCC AWPS Gathering – “Gathering in clear light and fresh hope”

We are Friends. We are Friends gathered together at the FWCC AWPS Gathering in Bhopal – India.

We are Friends from Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia, Bhopal, Bundelkhand, General Conference of Friends in India, Hong Kong, Japan, Mahoba True Friends Church in Uttar Pradesh, Marble Rocks Church in Madhya Pradesh, Mid-India, Philippine Evangelical Friends Church and Seoul, plus from within AWPS section; Indonesia, Nepal and an AFSC worker from Cambodia, plus countries from outside the section: Cuba, Ireland, Kenya, Norway, Rwanda, South Africa, U.K. and U.S.A.

We are Friends, with many different cultures, ages and ways of expressing our faith but we remember that we are more than just Friends from different places – we are all members of one world wide family of Friends.

There have been reports from Philippine Evangelical Friends, newly affiliated with AWPS, who have 35 churches and 3500 members, Nepal Friends with 32 churches and 2500 members and Indonesian Friends with 32 churches and 2000 members. These groups have had rapid growth over the last 20/25 years, yet membership in the more established YM’s – for example Japan and Australia – have, in recent times, expressed some concern over declining membership.

We welcome the affiliation of Mahoba True Friends Yearly Meeting, India and the acceptance of the application from Marble Rocks Monthly Meeting, with its principal location in Jabalpur.

Under the warmth of the Indian sun and the generous care of Indian Friends, we experienced their cultural richness through music and dance in the hues of green, red and gold. Other dancers

cast shadows, challenging us to cast our own shadows in the clear Light.

We have been made aware of serious religious tensions in India between Christians, Hindus and Moslems, leading to persecution and deaths of Christians and the destruction of their homes and churches. We need to hold all Indians in the Light and pray for a peaceful resolution, leading to peaceful co-existence and the ability to live together.

P.V. Rajagopol, of Ekta Parishad, a non-violent protest group, told us of a 340 km march by 25,000 landless people to Delhi. Some people had been made landless by developers; others had been driven from their forest land by timber merchants and government agencies. Their peaceful, non-violent protest forced the National Government to consider adopting some serious land reforms.

With the help of Rajagopol and the strength of the women from the Self Employed Women's Association, we learned to approach people with charity, engage the energy of young people, and build a grassroots movement by helping people use their anger to "build a social moment". We learned that in the midst of extreme poverty, gratitude can give just enough hope to move to new action and work to empower oneself and others. As Gandhi suggested, we must each think of the poorest person we know, and if our action empowers him or her, only then should we go forward.

We were equally challenged to be fearless in our approach to difficult situations. We must be willing to be transformed, even as we hope others might confront challenges with us. Love is large enough to encompass us all. We must be willing to name what we experience, to listen deeply, and to let go. We must be both fearless, as Gandhi required and sensitive, as Gandhi exemplified. God asks nothing less.

We sang with Friends from the Africa Section. They reminded us that regardless of what modes of transportation we use to get around, our destination as Friends is all the same. Due to

challenges of travel and cost, their Representative Meeting, usually held annually, has been laid down. Still, intervisitation lays the foundation for holding challenging conversations and for conferences that promote learning and fellowship. Through strategic planning, the Africa Section's focus is on inclusive decision-making, encouraging leadership among young people, supporting the ministry of women, actively engaging in peace efforts, forging ecumenical partnerships, and growing in Christ's love. They remind us that supporting Young Friends is an active process, patiently allowing the space for big questions to emerge and providing opportunity for them to try new ideas.

Young Adult Friends challenged us with their visions and plans for the years to come. They shared the importance of Young Friends by actively involving them in their own Meetings and in our section. They hope to build a close relationship to each other in spite of the diversity of culture, languages and geographical locations

Home groups, Interest groups and Information panel groups, along with Business sessions, kept us very busy from dawn to dusk but we made time to speak with each other during our breaks and meal times. There was even time for a total break from the "busy-ness" for two busloads of Friends to visit Sanchi, an important Buddhist centre, about 46 kms from Bhopal. A few centuries before Christ, local merchants built a large complex of stupas, monasteries and monuments on a high hill top. The Great Stupa, 37 meters in diameter and 16 meters high, is the largest in India and provided a breathtaking backdrop for Friends to have a picnic lunch, to stroll and be in communion with each other at a slow pace.

Worship took many forms, spoken in English and Hindi, in the fullness of expectant waiting and through the exuberant words of scripture and ministry. We delighted in celebrating our love of God. We are Friends! We hold all Meetings in the clear Light and with fresh hope until our Section meets again in the Philippines in 2011. Friends also anticipate gathering together for the World Conference in Nairobi, Kenya in August 2012.

In Love and Peace, Friends at the AWPS Section Gathering in Bhopal, India, November 6th to 12th, 2008

**FWCC AWPS: Minutes of Meeting for Worship for Business
Pastoral Centre, Bhopal, 7, 8 and 11 November 2008**

2008/1 Appointment of Recording Clerk, reporters and Epistle writing group

We make the following appointments: Helen Bayes as Recording Clerk; David Purnell, Jude Pembleton and Adhiraj Parthasarthy as Reporters; and Gretchen Castle, Michael Corbett, John Ocol and Arvind Swan to prepare our Epistle.

2008/2 Remembrance

We give thanks for the grace of God in the lives of AWPS Friends who have died since the previous Gathering: GCFI: Malika Aiyub, Diwakar Sonkamble; AYM: Ruth Beckwith, Lister Hopkins; Bundelkhand: DS Lall and Nalini Lall; Bhopal: Joel Peter; Aotearoa New Zealand: Olive Smithalls and Angela Brusse.

2008/3 Greetings

We receive warm greetings from :

Kenneth Co, Shanghai, China, who has set his watch to meet with us in Spirit,

Yiv Pao, Battambang Friends Church, Cambodia

Arbiter Simorangkir, General Secretary of Friends Church in Indonesia

Bill Robinson, Presiding Clerk, Aotearoa New Zealand

Jonathan Benyei, Clerk, Canberra Regional Meeting, Australia
YM

Ronis Chapman, Canberra Meeting, Australia

Marisa Johnson, Secretary, EMES, who expresses disappointment that she could not attend,

Ray Treadway, Clerk of Section of the Americas, who sends congratulations for this AWPS meeting

Raelynn Joyce, Lake Eyrie YM, USA

Ruth Cook, Clerk, Bradford-on-Avon Local Meeting, Wilts, UK

Marion Wells-Bruges, Co-Clerk, Redland Local Meeting, UK

Christine Willmore, Clerk, Bristol Area Meeting, Britain YM
Johannes Burcher, Clerk, Switzerland YM

We ask the Clerk to send our thanks and return greetings to these Friends.

2008/4 Representation

We record the presence of Friends from the following Yearly and Monthly Meetings and Worshipping Groups:

Aotearoa New Zealand Yearly Meeting
Australia Yearly Meeting
Bundelkhand Yearly Meeting
Bhopal Yearly Meeting
Hong Kong Monthly Meeting
General Conference of Friends in India
Japan Yearly Meeting
Mid-India Yearly Meeting
Seoul Monthly Meeting

2008/5 Invited Guests and Visitors

We welcome our invited guests:

Richard Rudolph (Rudy) Pantou and Arianto T Labaro, Friends Church in Indonesia
John Ocol, Lois Ocol, Jaime Tabingo and Lydia Tabingo, Philippines Evangelical Friends Church
Pradeep Lamichhane, Sabitri Lamichhane and their baby Prabal, Friends Church, Nepal
John Mikisi and John Sabwa, Nairobi YM, Kenya, FWCC Africa Section.

We welcome the India Friends Working Group and other members of Philadelphia YM.

We welcome Elizabeth Mertic (Illinois YM), PV Chandy and Mary Chandy (Western YM) USA

We also welcome David Atwood, Director, QUNO Geneva, and Patricia DeBoer, Regional Director for Asia, AFSC.

Finally we are very glad to have the participation of the Central Executive Committee of FWCC in this Gathering.

2008/6 Minutes of previous Gathering (2007)

We note that the Minutes of the previous AWPS Business Meeting were published in the AWPS Newsletter of September 2007 and we note these Minutes.

2008/7 Business arising

We note the 2008 edition of the AWPS Handbook has been finalised by the AWPS Committee, with the inclusion of a section on Grievance Procedures.

We note that the Section has been successfully incorporated in South Australia. We appoint Topsy Evans as Public Officer until the Section Meeting in 2011.

We hear that the following decisions have been taken by the Section committee:

- transfer of the printing of our Newsletter from Hong Kong, to Australia for the June 2008 Newsletter and to India for subsequent issues
- appointment of Ruth Watson and Julian Stargardt to the International Membership Committee until 31/12/2008
- appointment of Julian Stargardt as Associate Treasurer until 31/12/2008.

2008/8 Applications for Affiliation

a) We welcome a letter from the Philippines Evangelical Friends Church (PEFC) expressing their request to affiliate with FWCC AWPS. PEFC sees this as offering them a broader base as Friends in the region, and opportunities to contribute significantly to the spiritual aspects of the Friends denomination, in our region. We receive a report on this application from the Section Committee, recommending acceptance of the affiliation of the PEFC. We are delighted to welcome PEFC into FWCC and into the AWPS Section as a Yearly Meeting.

For the next two items, Dilawar Chetsingh stepped down as Clerk, and David Purnell was appointed to act in the position of Clerk.

b) Mahoba True Friends in Uttar Pradesh, have applied for affiliation to AWPS as a Yearly Meeting, and have been visited by the Secretary in 2007 and by the Clerk in 2008. We hear that they have a full church organisation, with a pastor and membership of over 200. They have bible-based, programmed worship, an executive board, a book of faith and practice, women's and youth groups, Bible study and a Sunday school. They also run service projects in hospitals, and community health and give practical aid to the needy. The main community is composed of 2nd or 3rd generation Quakers who have moved to Mahoba for employment or marriage. They have registered as required in Uttar Pradesh, have a bank account and land to build a church.

We hear that Bundelkhand YM gave its permission for the Mahoba True Friends to become a separate body in 2005 and now supports this renewed application. We warmly welcome Mahoba True Friends into affiliation with FWCC AWPS as a Yearly Meeting.

c) Friends Quakers Marble Rock Society

The Secretary visited this smaller and younger group very recently and was impressed with the active Sunday School of around 50 children. This group of evangelical Friends has about 100 members, meets in homes and offers Bible study. They offer health education and medical assistance in the community. They have a women's group which offers assistance to women in need and advocates temperance. They ask Quakers to visit and support them.

We rejoice in the initiatives of Marble Rock Friends as a kind of Quaker revival and support their recognition as a Friends group under the care of FWCC. We ask the Committee to seek advice from the World Office on the best way to proceed with their recognition and care.

Dilawar Chetsingh resumed his clerkship.

2008/9 Reports of YMs and other Groups represented

1. Bhopal YM

We hear that in 2007, Bhopal YM held a Youth Camp with 20 children and 12 parents present. They see it as essential to continue this form of teaching for the spiritual growth of their children. A member took part in the Historic Peace Churches Conference in Indonesia in 2007. They thank the Section for the beautiful opportunity to host this Section Gathering.

2. GCFI

The membership is small and widely spread. However they meet and worship together regularly. Two members have died and two people have joined. They support Lions Groups and other Christian and non-Christian community organisations. They are concerned to support interfaith activities. A member took part in the Historic Peace Churches Conference in Indonesia in 2007. The 50th anniversary of GCFI will take place next year, and this will be an opportunity to record the past and prepare for the future.

3. Hong Kong Monthly Meeting

This small group has welcomed babies and receives many visiting Friends. They have been challenged by troublesome issues within the Meeting and are hopeful these are now healed. Two disasters have received their attention: the Sichuan earthquake and the war in Georgia. They sent donations to Friends or charities in these places and have established a Hong Kong Friends Service Fund.

4. Australia Yearly Meeting

Australian Friends have participated in the preparations for the AWPS Gathering. They have also developed an interactive website for AWPS. A friend from Seoul has been invited to the next AYM in 2009. Australian Friends are being encouraged to support AWPS spiritually and financially.

5. Japan Yearly Meeting

This report was published in the AWPS Newsletter of September 2008.

6. Aotearoa New Zealand

This report was published in the AWPS Newsletter of September 2008.

7. Seoul Monthly Meeting

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

8. Philippines Evangelical Friends Church

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

9. Nepal Friends Church

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

10. Friends Church of Indonesia

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

11. Bundelkhand YM

We receive a written report and hear that this is a growing YM with 2 Monthly Meetings, 4 churches, 3 pastors in Bundelkhand and a membership of 1040. They hold regular programmed and unprogrammed worship and a children's Sunday school at the same time. There are youth groups and women's groups. The YM runs a Hindi school for which they need 8 computers. They are planning to establish schools in three other towns and are on the board of an English-medium school established by English missionaries which is now independent. They have a hospital ministry and provide medical help to the needy.

12. Mid-India Report

The report is received. This YM which originates from the first missionary who arrived in 1868 has services at 6 centres, including Meeting for Worship, Sunday school in some and Young Friends groups, managing of Friends schools and a girls hostel. Mid India Friends also do honorary work at Friends Rural Centre, Rasulia, helping to develop accommodation for guests and visitors.

2008/10 Secretary's Report

We receive this report which is available in English and Hindi. The Secretary asked all Friends who visit Meetings in the region to send reports to her for publication in the Newsletter. She is exploring ways with the Indian printer to improve the appearance of the Newsletter. She also spoke of her vision for a translations fund to enable basic Quaker materials to be published in the languages of the region, and be distributed to Meetings. She would like to see the Section employ some administrative support or a Young Friend.

2008/11 Clerk's Report

We receive this report which is available in English and Hindi. The Clerk spoke of his desire to see closer contact and interaction with the Friends Churches in our region. He sees an increasing use of internet and email, which is difficult for some areas but will reach out to young people.

2008/12 Treasurer's Report

We receive this report which is available in English and Hindi. Income from donations rose during 2006 and 2007, but appears to be a bit lower in 2008. An interactive website has been set up with a grant from the Chace Foundation, USA, for which we are most thankful. The Gathering Fund which received the surplus from the Seoul Gathering is likely to be reduced due to recent international financial upheavals. However there may be available funds in the Administrative Fund for small additional projects. A third signatory to the account, Taisoo Kim Watson, is appointed. The Treasurer offers in her report some ideas for fundraising.

Hong Kong Account

While the Section Secretary was based in Hong Kong, an Associate Treasurer was appointed to handle expenditure there, including payment of the Secretary's honorarium and the Newsletter. After the Secretary resigned, the Associate Treasurer also assisted in the production of the Section Newsletter. The Hong Kong account has now been closed. We thank Julian Stargardt for his assistance as Associate Treasurer, over this transition period.

2008/13 Historic Peace Churches Conference, Indonesia, 2007

We hear a brief report of this event by Sieneke Martin and Devdas Shrisunder who both attended the Conference. They tell us of the official participation of the Imam of the area and a visit with the Raja and his family. Young Mennonites work regularly with Muslims of the area, and as a result feel safer and happier. The Mennonites have contact with terrorist groups and are able to promote peacemaking with them. They also learned about Christian Peacemaker Teams' work in Palestine and Israel and other practical peacemaking in the region. We thank Gerry Guiton for his work on the organising committee of this conference.

2008/14 Section Committee

We appoint the following officers to serve until the date specified:

Clerk: Dilawar Chetsingh (until the end of the next section meeting in 2011)

Secretary: Valerie Joy (up to 31/12/2011)

Treasurer: Topsy Evans (up to 31/12/2011)

General Committee Members (until close of the next section meeting in 2011)

Patricia Macgregor, Aotearoa NZ YM

Naomi Kamimura, Japan YM

Ronald Titus, Bhopal YM

We request that the reconstituted Nominations Committee (Minute 2008/18) consider nominating members from Seoul MM and the PEFC YM to fill the two vacancies remaining.

2008/16 International Membership Committee

We confirm that our representatives on the IMC are Julian Stargardt and Ruth Watson until the close of our 2011 section meeting.

2008/17 Appointments to the Section Nominations Committee

We continue the appointment of Christopher Lall, Yukiko Backes, and Tom Coyner until the 2011 Section Meeting. This provides some continuity for the Committee. We appoint David Purnell and Thomas Watts to fill the two vacancies until the 2011 Section Meeting, and ask David Purnell to be the convenor.

2008/18 Amendments to the AWPS Constitution

The Constitution has been reviewed by a number of Friends and the proposed changes were published in the September 2008 Newsletter. Interpretation into and from Hindi was provided by the Clerk during this item.

- a) Our Section did not exist legally until it was recently incorporated in South Australia (SA), so our constitution must comply with South Australian law. This requires us to hold

General Meetings of the membership at regular intervals. We refer to our meetings of the membership as Gatherings. However the FWCC Constitution uses the legally more clear word 'Meeting'. Our constitution must be in harmony with the FWCC Constitution so the word Gathering has been changed to 'Section Meeting'.

We accepted the proposal to insert the phrase in brackets '(also called Gatherings)' into paragraph 2 of article 5b, and to add to para 5b 'General Meetings are necessary under the Associations Inc Act (1985) as amended from time to time, under which the Section is incorporated. All members are welcome to attend General Meetings'.

It is normal practice to hold General Meetings annually, but SA law allows us not to use the word 'annual', so that General Meetings can be held at different intervals and coincide with our Section Meetings, also known as Gatherings.

It was also accepted to change Para 7c to include the words 'that notices of General Meetings be sent to the FWCC/AWPS representatives as personal notification to allow 30 days notice'.

These two amendments were accepted.

b) We have accepted into the AWPS the Philippines Evangelical Friends YM and Mahoba YM, and welcomed the application of Marble Rock Friends Quakers as a Friends group. It is considered that this increase should be reflected in the size of our Section committee. It is accepted that we amend 9b of the constitution to increase the number of general members from three to 'up to five'.

c) The proposed amendments of the Headings to clause 12 and the addition of provisions relating to accounting records and taxation returns (12b and 12c) were accepted.

d) It was agreed that we do not hyphenate our name.

e) In reply to a question, it was explained that the constitution only applies to those groups which have been formally recognised.

It does not exclude anyone, but the Constitution does not need to refer to unrecognised groups, which can be covered in the Section Handbook.

f) We need to add 'amended in 2008' on the title page, and on page 2 the subtitle to para 3 should be Objects, Aims, Purposes, Rules and Bylaws. The Section Committee is asked to draft a footnote that defines the three kinds of Meetings, seeking the advice of Alan Clayton, Claire Gregory and Julian Stargardt.

2008/19 Further Greetings

We receive greetings from Bronwen Meredith. She remembers the suffering of victims of the Union Carbide explosion and hospitality of Devdas Shrisunder. She sends the message that we are called to love God and our neighbour, and to forgive others.

2008/20 Report of International Membership Committee

We hear that Ruth Watson and Julian Stargardt have endeavoured to make contact with remote Friends and small worshipping groups in our region, who need our tender care and offer of Friendship with them. We are individually encouraged to contact the World Office and the Section Secretary to enquire whether there are isolated Friends in places where we are planning to travel, and to make contact with these Friends if the Office indicates they would welcome it.

2008/21 Global Change

We hear a draft minute on a concern for our response to the effects of global change which impact on the environment, economy, resources and lifestyles, all of which contain the seeds of war. The draft minute has been prepared following a well-attended interest group which met on two afternoons and a plenary session with a panel of three speakers: Vasant Bawa (GCFI), Robert Howell (ANZ YM) and Julian Stargardt (HK MM). In the plenary session, there arose a call for a draft minute to be prepared for our consideration. The minute's purpose is inspire initiatives to protect the environment, because it is now under such clear and widespread threats. We see a great deal of death and misery

coming everywhere in the near future, and we hear ourselves being urged to prepare our responses to these prospects.

It is important to encourage action at every single level of Friends, including at the street level. The means of responding to the local challenges are at present fragmented. The intention is not to impose a process on any Yearly Meetings and groups, but to move forward internationally on the minutes of concern which have come from many Friends' sources.

Reservations are expressed that the proposal appears to set up a top-down process which would be costly. However we are reminded that we are being called to take one step now and to trust that the Light will be given to show us individually the next one. Perhaps funding for initiatives can be sought from many sources, including from non-Friends' sources.

We are reminded that this concern was raised by this Section 3 years ago and it then went to the Triennial, so it can be seen as having been seasoned already. The CEC will have a role in considering it also. The rhythm of future meetings means that the next step at Section level will be in 3 years' time.

The draft minute has been read and interpreted in Hindi, in many steps, and the drafting committee has incorporated the comments received from the floor. The agreed minute is given below and we are united in supporting it. We ask the AWPS Committee to appoint, in good time, the proposed committee through the normal nominations process, bearing in mind the Friends who are showing a personal commitment to work on this concern at this time.

2008/22 Call for Action on Global Change

Reference the 2007 Triennial Minute and the 2008 Hong Kong Monthly Meeting Minute which we attach, we have considered further our concern about Global Change. We agree to establish through the Section nominations process a Committee of Concerned Friends to work on the Concern of Global Change with Meetings, Yearly Meetings, Sections, FWCC, other organizations and concerned persons

The Committee shall be composed of Friends, shall conduct itself in accordance with Friends Testimonies and traditions of worshipful discernment of Truth and unity, shall keep Minutes of its proceedings and shall report to AWPS and FWCC.

We invite Africa Section, Europe and Middle East Section and Section of the Americas to consider establishing similar concerned groups and we call on the Sections and their constituent Meetings to work together on this Concern.

We ask Young Friends to work with us on this Concern.

We ask FWCC and QUNO to assist us to represent our Concern internationally.

We ask FWCC to consider holding a consultation meeting of Sections and other concerned groups to carry this Concern forward at a world level. There are a variety of options about how the organizational forum could be developed and we ask that this be part of the consultation.

We ask Friends to take this Minute back to their Meetings for consideration of how they can best act on this Concern.

2007 Dublin Triennial Minute on the Environment and Sustainability

“We believe that it is vital to address the threat to life on Earth posed by environmental destruction.

We believe that we have a duty of responsible stewardship for all of God’s creation, although we recognize that we do not always achieve it fully. When we damage the natural world and its creatures, we damage God’s creation. Reverence for human life cannot be separated from maintaining the integrity and health of the ecology of our planet.

Competition for land, water and other precious resources is leading to wars and ecological disasters. Overuse and misuse of resources is not sustainable.

We call upon all the peoples and governments of the world to recognise the equal worth of all people, the integral worth of the natural world and to work together for the common good of all the earth community.

With God's help, we resolve to examine our lives in light of the needs of the whole Earth and cooperate in taking steps towards sustainable living for all."

2008 Hong Kong Monthly Meeting Minute Calling for A Friends' Global Voice on Global Change

"We need a Friends global voice to speak to matters of Global Change, a global voice representing all Friends, run for Friends by Friends on Friends principals of worshipful discernment and subject to the will of Friends worldwide. We need a Friends Council for Global Change under the auspices of FWCC with Representatives from all Meetings"

Hong Kong Monthly Meeting Minute, 2008

2008/23 Venue and date of next Section Meeting

We welcome the offer of the PEFC YM to host the next Section Meeting and agree to hold it in the Philippines in 2011.

Dilawar Chetsingh, Clerk, 11 November 2008

General Meeting Minutes: These will be included in the next edition of this Newsletter.

Epistle for the FWCC AWPS Young Friends Gathering 2008

Dear Friends

Greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Asia West Pacific Section (AWPS) Young Friends Gathering, held from the 12th -15th of November in the Pastoral Centre, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India. This gathering was the first time this generation of YFs had gathered from all over the section. The YF gathering was preceded by the FWCC AWPS Gathering.

The gathering was inspired by the World Gathering of Young Friends, held in 2005, the first gathering of its kind held in twenty years, to organize a time that YFs in the section could meet, as prior to 2005, few of us knew YFs from other Yearly Meetings in the section. The theme fresh hope and clear light encompassed this new beginning.

Some Young Friends attended the earlier gathering and brought enthusiasm into the group from this. The Junior Young Friends and the Central Executive Committee gatherings also brought enthusiasm to us, as these were held concurrently with the Young Friends gathering, joining us for worship, songs and games.

The group encompassed many different beliefs, Quaker practices and nationalities; it included Friends from Australia, India, Nepal, New Zealand and the Philippines.

Some Friends could not make it to the gathering, but sent their thoughts and wishes to us including a quilt sent from Japan Young Friends.

The main aim of the gathering was to create more dialogue with other Young Friends in the region in order to have a unified voice on issues in our section, and in the world. In the sessions we talked about global change; the history of Quakerism; our passions; and the issues faced in our lives, meetings and in the world. Meetings for worship were run by different groups, so we could experience different types of worship by Quaker groups

YFs were empowered to try to face the problems of the world, with each Friend agreeing to change one thing in their life in order to address the problem of global change. A committee with a representative from each yearly meeting was formed so future gatherings could be planned, including one to be held within the next five years. We hope that through this committee, ideas for the section will be turned into actions, and our aim of more dialogue will be met.

YFs found love, wisdom, and experience from different people and countries through the gathering, finding common ground through sport, music and song.

We look forward to being in contact with one another over the coming years. We embrace the opportunity to fully know one another and to learn from each others' faith, as we grow together in the fresh hope that the clear light brings.

£\$ Help Support this Newsletter: You may wish to contribute towards the cost of production. Annual cost is AUD 20. Please send this or its equivalent in your currency to your Treasurer. This office bearer can then make an annual remittance in \$AUD to AWPS Treasurer, Topsy Evans, PO Box 181 Glen Osmond, SA 5064 Australia. Your donation can be even more useful by combining with other Friends to send a lump sum, so minimising bank charges. If you would like to use internet transfers, please contact Topsy Evans on tevans@c130.aone.net.au for our bank details. Please also remember AWPS in your will—*Thanks*

Glossary of terms used in Newsletter:

AFSC: American Friends Service Council

AS: Africa Section

AVP: Alternative to Violence Project

AWPS: Asia West Pacific Section

BMMS: Bundelkhand Yearly Meeting

CEC: Central Executive Committee

EMES: Europe and Middle Eastern Section

FPT: Friends Peace Teams

FWCC: Friends World Committee for Consultation

GCFI: General Conference of Friends in India

HPC: Historic Peace Churches

JYF: Junior Young Friends (12-18 years)

MM: Monthly Meeting

PEFC: Philippines Evangelical Friends Church

QUNO: Quaker United Nations Office

QUNO-NY: Quaker United Nations office in New York

QUNO Geneva: Office in Geneva

QPS/ANZ: Quaker Peace and Service, Aotearoa New Zealand

QSA: Quaker Service Australia

S of A: Section of the Americas

YAF: Young Adult YM: Yearly Meeting Friends (18 years-35ish)

YF: Young Friends

YM: Yearly Meeting



Friends enjoy a picnic day at Sanchi



Setsuko Masaie and Kei Koide from Japan Yearly Meeting, during a break in the Business Sessions at Bhopal.

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