



Bhopal Young Friends, some of whom will be stewards at the AWPS Gathering in Bhopal.

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March 2008

Issue No 77

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This is the Pastoral Centre in Bhopal

REMINDER

Applications are being accepted for the Gatherings in Bhopal. Young Friends Event, 12-15 November (note changed dates) AWPS Section Gathering from 6 – 12 November

Editorial

First of all I would like to thank Valerie and the AWPS Committee for giving me an opportunity to work on this issue of the Newsletter. With plenty of space to fill and my little experience in doing this task, overwhelmed and tried my faith. While sorting out what to put in and summarizing reports, other information kept coming in, such as the situation in Kenya, QUNO and other news.

At first I thought I could include more information and voices from Japan Yearly Meeting, but my disorganised frame of mind never reached the level of proper presentation. Yet Sachiko Yamamoto's comments from visiting Australia Yearly Meeting and the Japan Yearly Meeting epistle are here to give you some idea of what it's like to be Friends in Japan. Whilst writing about the Peace Conference in Kenya, in the wake of the dangerous political and humanitarian crisis, I prayed that the planned measures will lead to better relationships among Kenyan people, as well as a heightened awareness of the importance of spreading the Peace Testimony.

Naomi Backes Kamimura, Guest Editor

POST SCRIPT: Please go to the newly developed website for a full report of the Historic Peace Churches, which could not fit into the Newsletter, and for the Registration Form for the AWPS Section Gathering in Bhopal, www.fwccawps.org

Welcome Philippines Evangelical Church to FWCC

"We welcome the decision of the Philippines Evangelical Church to apply to affiliate with the Friends World Committee for Consultation". In addition, Filipino Friends have been represented at two recent Triennials, the World Gathering of Young Friends, the Seoul Section, Gathering and the Historic Peace Churches Conference in 2007 in Indonesia. They have already demonstrated their commitment to co-operation and Friendship at an international level.

Summary of the Peace Conference in Kenya:The Friends Peace Conference 24-27 January held at Sheywe Guest House,

QUNO NEWS

We have received the following thanks from QUNO for our donations: "Please accept this letter on behalf of QUNO and all our staff. We wish to thank the members and attenders of Australia Yearly Meeting and individual Friends for their extremely generous contribution of AUD 3,990.00 which was deposited into our account on the 24th November 2007.

QUNO, is always very grateful for contributions towards the core funding of its three programmes, these remain as successful as they are only because of the additional support they receive.

In September this year we welcomed the arrival of our new programme assistant. Yvette Issar, who comes to us from Kenya and is our Britain Yearly Meeting sponsored PA. She will work on Disarmament and Peace issues, and Siobhan Sparkes McNamara from England who will work with Rachel Brett on our Human Rights and Refugees Programme. Their additional research and assistance in our programme work will increase our capacity to follow the issues and processes in and around the UN'.

David Atwood Director & Disarmament and Peace

New Director of QUNO New York appointed: Andrew Tomlinson began on February 1st as the new Director. He has a BA in Archaeology & Anthropology from the University of Cambridge and a Masters in Oriental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. Andrew joined QUNO after a career in international finance in London and New York with S.G.Warburg and Citigroup, managing a socially responsible investment business. A Quaker since he came to Philadelphia from the UK on an exchange scholarship, he and his wife Ursula were married at Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting, and he is now Clerk of Chatham-Summit Monthly Meeting in New Jersey. His work has included projects in Mexico, in the Far East and Latin America. Andrew lives with his family in New Jersey and is a UK citizen.

Andrew's arrival is met with much enthusiasm after a period when David Atwood served as temporary joint director of both Geneva and New York offices.

Friends School, I was chosen to become the first exchange student to study in Moorestown Friends School, in the United States.

It was during the long voyage to the States that I had this spiritual experience. I was on the boat, feeling very depressed by being homesick and seasick. It was a dark and cloudy day. All of a sudden, I felt very warm and lightened. I looked up and saw a stream of rays coming through the clouds around me. After that experience, I knew that God is always with me and will talk to my condition. I was not lonely any longer. When I sit in silence, I still feel the warmth and peacefulness and feel held in the light.

While staying with an American Quaker family, I attended the silent meeting for worship with them. It was a big relief to sit in silence without having to listen, or to speak in English. Also, I came to realize that in silence I could communicate with God and with other people better. Sunday Morning when we go to the meeting for worship became my favorite time and I started to attend Tokyo Monthly Meeting regularly. It was not until I married and had two children and then divorced, that I made up my mind to join the Quaker community. I needed spiritual support and I thought it necessary for my children to be brought up in a community where we can share the same values.

I get great inspiration every time I attend international gatherings such as FWCC triennials and AWPS gatherings. At the AWPS gathering in Seoul in 2005, eleven Japanese Quakers including one young Friend participated. As we all got to know each other and opened up in the spirit through worship and sharing, we the Japanese Friends felt so close to the Korean Friends. I spontaneously apologized to the Korean Friends for what Japan had done to their people during and before the war, forcing them to fight for Japan, forcing them to use Japanese in school, forcing to worship Japanese Emperor, deceiving young women into being comfort women and so on. That AWPS gathering offered us chance of reconciliation. As such reconciliation had been made among us, we all felt very much healed by the Spirit.

Kakamega. The Friends Peace Conference was held in response to the deteriorating political situation where immediate actions were necessary in many areas for people of Kenya. Even before the organizing of the conference, Friends in and out of Kenya have been in communication via Internet and the immediacy of the situation was responded to by Friends worldwide.

The planning began at the meeting on January 14th, where the general consensus on the purpose was to coordinate actions of separate Friends organizations as well as Yearly meetings in grassroots work and long-term action plans.(blog Jan. 15th)

60 participants attended the conference, including the leaders of all fifteen Kenyan Yearly Meetings, the leaders of the Kenyan Quaker peace organizations, and others representing Friends programs and ministries, including schools, hospitals, and evangelistic missions.

Keynote speakers were Mary Lord, recently-retired Assistant General Secretary for Peace and Conflict Resolution at American Friends Service Committee, and Oliver Kisaka, Deputy General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Kenya..

Mary gave her personal reflections of how Friends peace testimony begins with faith and that it is not our own power or knowledge, but the power of the love of God makes us the Peace Makers. Oliver Kisaka updated on the situation and the analysis on the political disturbances and their root causes and put them into Christian perspectives.

On the second day small groups were formed to work on the seven themes of :

- Peace and non-violence as central to the gospel
- Trauma healing and post-conflict ministries
- Humanitarian needs, Internally Displaced People and vulnerable populations
- Ethnic conflict and reconciliation toward a harmonious society
- Preaching and evangelism in the present context

- The mission of our institutions of education and healthcare
- Global partnership and the role of our international/ecumenical partners

A coordinating committee was formed to put immediate crisis intervention measures in political, humanitarian, inter-communal, psychological and spiritual crisis and crisis of youth and longer-term actions included youth empowerment, economic development, humanitarian relief, advocacy and spiritual development of the Peace Testimony.

At the conclusion of the conference the Open Letter to the Leaders and the Citizens of Kenya was drafted and sent out.

(Please go to Kenya blog:fwcckenyaneews.blogspot.com for updates and details of conference and other correspondences)

Second Quaker Youth Booklet

The following has been sent by Angelina Conti announcing the second Quaker Youth Booklet. The deadline for contributions from young Quakers was in February. The project is being guided by six to eight young Friends, with oversight and support from Quakers Uniting in Publications (QUIP).

The Quaker Youth Book Projects website: <http://www.quakeryouth.org/quipbook>. will advise a call for submissions later in 2008.

How can you help the Quaker Youth Book Project? Consider one of the following:

1. Share this information with young Quakers and older Friends who work with younger Friends. Encourage a young Friend you know to apply for the Editorial Board, or to begin to think about submitting his or her creative work.
2. Make a donation. QUIP is committed to a any size are welcome in dollars or pound sterling.
3. Offer your services as a translator. Though the Editorial Board will do its work in English, we hope to be able to accept written submissions in many languages, including but not limited to Spanish, French, Welsh and Swahili, and are considering publishing the book in more than one language. Can you support that work?

Finally, the difficulties Japanese Friends often encounter in international gatherings is when and where the language used is English. That sometimes limits our chances to take part in world wide communications among Friends. We have been making efforts however. Our youngest member Shoko Yajima attended the World Young Friends Gathering in Lancaster before she made up her mind to be a member. We gave her financial support to attend the gathering. She later reported that by going to the gathering she learned a great deal about Quakerism. We found that this is an encouraging sign: a sign that we could share our own experience and insights with wider Quakers.

I wish that Australian Friends will keep a strong interest in Japanese Friends and help us spread Quakerism in Japan and work together to make this world a more peaceful place to live in. Thank you.

How I became a Quaker: I was born in 1941 and my family lived in a port town named Dairen in Manchuria, which was then regarded as part of Japan. My father worked for a shipping company and they had the company house there. We had a Chinese maid who was only twelve when she came to our home. Especially after my father was taken to the war, mother treated this Chinese girl as her sister and taught how to read and write Japanese. This Chinese girl was like a big sister to me. It was toward the end of the war when she took me to her country home. It was a festival time and we went to see the parade. Though I had been told not to speak Japanese, I cried, "Look! That man is so tall!" This man was walking on stilts. Suddenly the villagers surrounded me saying, "Here is a Japanese. Japanese have done horrible things to our people." I felt fear at that time and clung to my big sister's arm. After a while, the chief of the village came to me and calmed down the villagers. He said, "Today is the festival day. Our God doesn't want to see any violence on this special day. You can enjoy the festival with us, little girl." Mother cried when she heard the story from us. This made her persuade my father to send me to Friends School years later. She wanted me to learn how peace can be maintained. While

worship and share our common faith with as many members and attenders as possible.

The remodeling Friends Center was another big project. It is almost done and we are hoping that this historically important building will be used more often for various activities so that we can give chance for many people like students and graduates of Friends School, their parents and those otherwise interested in Friends testimonies to come to know about Quakerism. This year I am planning to encourage Young Friends to meet regularly there. I believe we have a lot of messages to share with the younger generation, and they with us. It is available for accommodation for traveling Friends.

Japanese Friends' concerns have been peace, education and care for the handicapped and, more recently, environmental issues. Building up peace consciousness among the people in general, in the younger generation in particular, is urgent today. Through my experience of teaching the young students at Friends School, I feel we should do our best to lead them to realize the presence of "Inner Light" inside us—our "Inward Teacher" so to speak. It will free us from our conformist attitude toward the surrounding society. For many Japanese, the sense of belonging to a major and stable group is highly valued. As long as they belong to a solid group, they feel themselves well protected and well respected. Therefore the sense of being different from others is a challenge for most of them, especially for young people. Being Quakers often gives us this sense of being different. One may easily hesitate to hold such an attitude—I won't blame him or her for that—but I cannot but believe that it will lead one to universal values. It is a challenging task and I am committed to encouraging young Friends to work for it.

The most important thing for us is to seek for the Light of Christ within ourselves, which enables us to overcome prejudices, doubts and indifference. Even if most Japanese have little knowledge of Christ, we can have them trust in what is guiding us from inside.

This project is inspired by the success and lessons of QUIPs 2005 anthology, *Whispers of Faith*: Young Friends share their experiences of Quakerism and QUIPs ongoing commitment to empowering young Quaker leaders and ministers through writing and publishing. To learn more about Whispers and QUIPs work as an international association of Quaker writers and publishers, please visit: <http://www.quaker.org/quip>. More info: angelinac@fgcquaker.org.

JAPAN YEARLY MEETING EPISTLE

To Friends Everywhere:

Japan Yearly Meeting was held on November 17-18 at Bears Park Shimotsuma in the vicinity of Shimotsuma Monthly Meeting. The theme was "Even though our outer nature suffers decay, our inner self is renewed day after day" 2nd Corinthians 16.

Shimotsuma Monthly Meeting is a small group of six members. However, they welcomed 40 members from other Monthly Meetings, with the cooperation of Tsuchiura Monthly Meeting.

In the beginning, we had a proposal of changes in our Yearly Meeting organisation from the Committee and we had a consensus of the responsible body of our Yearly Meeting by the Clerks of 5 Monthly Meetings with the Yearly Meeting Clerk.

Friends Centre, built 85 years ago was registered as a Cultural asset from the Ministry of Culture. We have been renovating it and pretty soon the building will be able to be used. Now we are at the stage of thinking how we can make the Centre useful for Friends' activities, as well as reinforcing against earthquake.

Nominating committee proposed a new Yearly Meeting Clerk and other committee members and the sense of the meeting agreed. We were sorry that young members were not included on the committee. On the evening of the first day, we heard reports of the Triennial at Dublin from our FWCC representatives, Mamoru Hitomi and Naomi Backes Kamimura. We then had a talk from Linley Gregory of

Aotearoa New Zealand on the work of QUNO New York, showing pictures and other materials.

This past year we lost six valued Friends, We remembered their works through faith and practice.

We deeply felt God's guidance through the Yearly Meeting and closed the two day program in peace.

After the Yearly Meeting, we had the Nitobe Lecture by Hidehiko Sazanami, of Tokyo Monthly Meeting on "Dr Nitobe and Japanese Culture". In Peace,

Sachiko Yamamoto, outgoing Clerk

Kazuko Kagami, incoming Clerk.

NEWS OF FRIENDS

The following is from *Kenneth Co* in Shanghai

Nei Hou! Salut! Shalom! Very Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from the city of Shanghai! Once again, it is not possible to send you a hard copy greeting card especially with the postal service in China, which is not known for its efficiency. I thought to myself; what better season to convey to those significant others that they matter to my life, that I think of them often, especially during these special holidays when good will abounds; and that without your unwavering love and support, life would be different and lack luster!

So my dear Friends, may I wish you a season full of peace and much to be grateful about! One that is memorable and meaningful.

A small worship group has already been started in our city, Shanghai. It consists of 5 adults and 2 small children. At this time the meeting is irregular, but it is hoped that come next year it will be more regular.

Robert Howell in Aotearoa New Zealand writes: ***Quaker Institute for the Future***, is producing a book on the growing incoherence between the human economy and the integrity of Earth's life support systems. Nothing less than a major re-adaptation of human settlements and economic activity is required. For the full report, go to our website, under "News". The book is positioned in relation to an ongoing campaign

Last year the annual session of Japan Yearly Meeting was held on November 17 -18 in Shimotsuma. Shimotsuma Monthly Meeting, which grew out of its preparatory meeting several years ago, is the smallest monthly meeting with only six members. However, helped by members of the neighboring Tsuchiura Monthly Meeting they hosted the annual session. All those who attended (about 40 in number) felt much welcomed. It was Gurney and Elizabeth Binford from the United States who founded the meeting in 1921. Although small in number, they have been operating a kindergarten with 65 children. The kindergarten has the history of over 60 years and has been quite influential in that area. They have just started Saturday School for the alumni pupils. I think this is a good idea and hope that they will join the Society of Friends in the future. We had Linley Gregory of New Zealand Yearly Meeting as a guest, who talked on her work with the QUNO, Quaker United Nations Office in New York. We were very happy to become acquainted with the QUNO work and have renewed our support for it. We take pride that though the Asia-West Pacific Section is not large in membership, we have turned out some competent Friends involved in the important international activities, such as Richard Meredith, Susumu Ishitani, David Purnell and Elizabeth Duke.

Although Japanese Quakers are such a minority group, we think we have special mission toward our society. While clerk of Japan Yearly Meeting I made suggestions to set up three special committees. It was fortunate that they met the approval of Friends. The first one was for changing the structure of the Yearly Meeting. Clerks of the five monthly meetings comprising the Yearly Meeting now, in cooperation with the presiding clerk of the Yearly Meeting, assume full responsibility for running Yearly Meeting's programs. In this way, the views of regular members of each monthly meeting are hopefully better represented. Secondly we decided to have our own "Faith and Practice." It may take some years to complete it, but while we are working on it we can try to

School in Hobart was established in the same year. I think it is wonderful that two Friends schools have been closely united as sister schools exchanging students and teachers. I have worked for Friends School over thirty years teaching English and Religion. One unforgettable experiences as a teacher was coming to Hobart, Tasmania in the year 2000. I stayed in The Friends' School for a month, visiting different classes and helping with Japanese Language classes and going to Hobart Meeting on Sundays for worship. I have fond memories of Tasmania and treasure friendship with Australian Friends.

We had two teachers who, after having graduated from Hobart Friends' School, came to teach at Friends School in Tokyo. One is Reia Farrall, the daughter of Lyndsay and Stephanie. This year Louisa Hatanaka, Principal of Friends School in Tokyo, was invited to attend the celebration of the 120th anniversary of Hobart Friends' School. Upon her return she spoke very fondly and excitedly of the performances of the students in Hobart. She said she was especially impressed with the creativity she had observed at Hobart, both among the students and teachers.

Other affiliated organizations of Japan Yearly Meeting, are two old peoples' homes, one in Tokyo and the other in Mito. There are two kindergartens, one in Mito and the other in Shimotsuma. They have been serving their respective communities for close to a century. Japan Friends Service Committee grew out of the works of American Friends Service Committee which had done a great deal of relief work in Japan during the years immediately following the end of World War II. Japan Friends Service Committee is an independent legal body operating an old people's home, day care center and a day nursery school in Tokyo. How to keep Quaker spirit in these affiliated organizations is also our issue. As fewer and fewer Friends are now serving on the board of Japan Friends Service Committee and other Yearly Meeting-affiliated organizations, Quaker connection is becoming only a past legacy. We need more Friends, especially young Friends, involved in these works.

aimed at a movement for policy level and institutional change. More details will be given in the near future. Meanwhile go to <http://mecteam.blogspot.com> which discusses this and other issues, and look on the AWPS website for Robert's report.

Nadine Hoover, Friends Peace Teams, reports on a powerful AVP workshop in Aceh, where perpetrators and victims of violence worked together for outcomes which touched the hearts of all. More information on Friends Peace Teams is on our website. Nadine's email is info@consciencestudio.com

Japan Yearly Meeting former clerk, Sachiko Yamamoto visited Australia Yearly Meeting in January. Her speech follows: My name is Sachiko Yamamoto. Sachi means happiness in Japanese and ko means a child. It's a popular name for a Japanese girl. It is quite natural for parents in any society to wish happiness for their children. I take my name as an expression of my parents' wish for my happiness. I am thankful that I have been able to lead blessed life so far. This however does not mean that I have not met nor observed miseries and disasters in the world. I have my own share of those myself. I have seen on the other hand many cases of goodness and charity in the world. I have always thought that these are the favors God has shown toward us. I wonder how we cannot listen more to His words, so that the world can be better with fewer sufferings and unnecessary fights.

I have been an FWCC representative for over ten years of the Japan Yearly Meeting. During this time I have had opportunities to attend the Triennial meetings and section gatherings. I was on the local arrangement committee when the Triennial was held in Tokyo in 1988. I cannot forget the conscientious efforts and hard work that the late Richard Meredith, then a member of the Australian Yearly Meeting, put in to make the assembly of Friends from all over the world possible. It was an inspiring occasion for the Japanese Friends to host the assembly and work together to make it a success.

(continued on p 9)

AWPS ACCOUNTS

Financial Statement AWPS Accounts, 1/1/07-31/12/07-all in \$AUD

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT		
Expenditure		
Bank Fees	2	
Secretarial expenses (HK)*	5500	
Secretarial expenses (OZa0)**	1491.82	
General Administration***	799.02	
Advance Payments Bhopal****	4500	
Total	12292.84	
Income		
Bank interest cheque acc	39.1	
Bank Interest TD	471.26	
Donations YMs and Groups	11017.63	
Donations-Individual Friends	2979.85	
Total	14507.84	2215
CHACE FUND		
Grant^	4401.25	4401.25
Carried forward from 2006		5539.01
Carried forward to 2008	7754.01	
Balance		12155.26
Balance at Bank at 31/12/07		12155.26
GATHERING FUND (in Term Deposit)		
From Seoul Gathering	5146.44	
Interest on Term Deposit ^^	638.56	
Total	5785	
* Payments to Hong Kong to 31/8/07		
**Secretarial expenses from 1/9/07		
*** Incorporation, early website payments; a payment for FWCC		
**** to be refunded from Gathering fund on maturity of Term Deposit		
^ Chace Foundation grant to redevelop our website		
^^TD ro mature 14/3/08. Expected interest approx 210		
4500 may then be repaid to the Administration account (see *****)		

(Cont from p 7) The Asia-West Pacific Section of FWCC was organized then. Some of you will recall the names of Taeko Yamanouchi, Susumu Ishitani, Akio Watanabe and Michi Nakamura who all played an instrumental role to bring about such an organization in this area. It is regrettable that they have already passed away.

I have served for the past two years as clerk of the Japan Yearly Meeting. It has been becoming obvious that Japanese Friends are aging and that the membership of the Japan Yearly Meeting is noticeably declining. I am here today to ask you for advice and encouragement to revitalize Quakerism in Japan, especially on how to attract young people, how to make them aware of our work or what we have been doing in the fields of world peace, social welfare, environmental protection and other important matters.

Along with the history of Quakerism in Japan, I will touch upon some of the difficulties we are facing now.

The beginning of Quakerism in Japan dates back to 1886 with the arrival of the first missionaries, Joseph and Sarah Cosand of Kansas Yearly Meeting. They had been chosen and sent out the previous year by the women's Foreign Missionary Assoc. of Philadelphia. They had the help of two Friends who were already in Japan at that time: Willie Whitney, an independent American medical missionary, and George B. Braithwaite, Whitney's brother-in-law and Japan Representative of the British Bible Society.

Thirty years later, in 1917, the Japan Yearly Meeting was founded. Today there are five monthly meetings comprising it: Tokyo Monthly Meeting with 80 members, Mito Monthly Meeting with 35, Tsuchiura Monthly Meeting with 26, Osaka Monthly Meeting with 10 and Shimotsuma Monthly Meeting with 6 members. The total number of Japanese Quakers is 157 at present. We lost 6 members but gained 4 members in 2007. There are several organizations affiliated with Japan Yearly Meeting. Friends School, a high school for girls of ages from 12 to 18, is one. Founded in 1887 with only three girls, it has close to 800 students today. I have learned that the Friends'